East Amwell Township is a rural haven tucked away in the southeast corner of Hunterdon County. The township has worked for many years to make East Amwell a place where farming comes first. That commitment has paid off, and the township is home to many preserved farms, including a 61 acre farm on Wertsville Road preserved by the township with the help of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

“We have wanted to preserve this farm for many years” said Dick Ginman, a member of the Township’s Farmland and Open Space Committee. “We are indebted to Kate Buttolph (Hunterdon Land Trust’s Director of Acquisition and Stewardship) for working with the owner to make this preservation happen.”

The recently preserved property adjoins other preserved farms and is in an area of interest for both East Amwell Township and the Hunterdon Land Trust. East Amwell Township’s Farmland Preservation Plan recognizes that “agriculture is important in East Amwell’s history and its future, providing a rural lifestyle valued by farmers and non-farmers alike, while also contributing breathtaking scenic views, promoting the local economy and utilizing a valuable natural resource”. The farm on Wertsville Road is a perfect example of the type of place that the Township’s Plan is geared to protect. It is surrounded by other large farms and across the street from East Amwell Elementary school that together create a beautiful and peaceful rural vista.

A RURAL OASIS IN RARITAN

After years of effort, one of the largest undeveloped properties in Raritan Township has been preserved. The property has farmland, forests, and scenic waterfalls, and is close to residential neighborhoods so that nearby residents can walk to the newly protected parkland.

Raritan Township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Hunterdon County and has the largest population in the County making the property a much needed and peaceful getaway for walking, picnicking, cross-country skiing and bird-watching. Of particular interest to bird watchers is the fact that the 108 acre property is home to the pileated woodpecker, the largest North American woodpecker.

SEE RARITAN, PAGE 5
As we revel in the beauty of the fall colors and celebrate the changing of the seasons, we also celebrate this new chapter in Hunterdon Land Trust history. Long-time residents of Hunterdon County have witnessed the growth and evolution of the land trust from an all-volunteer organization to a small but professional staff. You have followed us as we pursued our mission of protecting the rural and historic character of Hunterdon County from former homes in Frenchtown and downtown Flemington to our current headquarters at the Dvoor Farm. As our daily bustle has reverberated through the halls of the historic farmhouse for almost two years now, we have planned for the long-term stewardship of this iconic property and secured grants to enable us to restore the property and agricultural structures to their original glory.

Like the mighty oaks in Dvoor’s old growth forest, the land trust stands as a sentinel safeguarding public access to wilderness, the integrity of natural systems that support us, and family farms to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in the Garden State.

In addition to preserving more than 6,300 acres, we have been blazing trails like those you will read about in this issue to allow the public to experience the natural treasures of Hunterdon County.

We are moving full speed ahead to achieve our goal of preserving 10,000 acres in 10 years and have made every effort to ensure we can steward these properties in perpetuity.

We look forward to growing our staff to not only support our preservation goals but also to train the next generation of land stewards.

We always welcome volunteers to lend expertise and elbow grease to projects that enhance wildlife habitat, improve forest health, protect wetlands, and enable public access to recreational opportunities. You play a critical role in helping us fulfill the community’s vision for Hunterdon and create a legacy for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

The success of the Hunterdon Land Trust hinges on continued support from the community we serve as we have much work ahead of us. With public funding for preservation in jeopardy, now more than ever we are in need of your help to ensure Hunterdon remains a place you are proud to call home.

While the land trust has become a fixture in the county over the last 16 years, we are reinvigorating our relationships with residents as well as partners, such as municipal open space committees, businesses, and non-profit conservation organizations, to continue to grow deeper roots in a community that ensures we can stand tall to meet new challenges head on.

Thank you for helping us protect the places you love!

Patti Ruby
Executive Director, Hunterdon Land Trust
It has been an amazing 6th season for the Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers’ Market. What fun to watch the land trust’s initial concept of giving local farmers a place to sell directly to the public grow into a celebration of our agricultural community and local food.

FOR SIX YEARS OUR MARKET HAS HELPED SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS AND OUR REGION’S ECONOMY TOO.

Every year we conduct an economic impact study and we have found that the Farmers’ Market keeps over $2.5 million dollars in the local economy!

In addition to showcasing the connection between preserved farmland, local food and the economy, this year the market hosted several events that highlighted the connection between land preservation and other issues, including clean water and outdoor recreation like hiking, biking and nature photography.

The mission of the Hunterdon Land Trust is all about healthy communities. With your help we preserve land for the health of our environment, and through our Farmers’ Market we are showing that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand in hand.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MARKET AND THE HUNTERDON LAND TRUST.

Together we are part of the Buy Local movement that is creating and maintaining healthy communities all over the country. You’ll be happy to know that you don’t have to miss out on your favorite organic produce, artisan bread, locally raised meats, native plant seeds, herbal teas, hot coffee and tea, pastries, alpaca wool products, honey products, wine and cheese this winter:

From December 2012 to April 2013 the Hunterdon Land Trust will be holding our second Winter Farmers’ Market from 11 am to 1 pm on the third Sunday of the month.
This beautiful waterfall is hidden away at the end of a short but steep quarter mile trail in the Kugler Woods Preserve (part of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park). With the help of dedicated volunteers the Hunterdon Land Trust has made the trail to this hidden treasure safe and ready for visitors.

The trail is now easier to walk for all levels of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. The Kugler Woods Preserve is easily accessible and located just off Route 29 in Kingwood Township. Now that the trail has been improved it provides a quick and tranquil escape from every-day life. The woods are mostly shaded and loaded with tall sugar maples. During winter months when the trees have shed their leaves, great views of the Delaware River are possible. The rocky ground surface of the woods contains many large boulders, giving it the feel of Ringing Rocks State Park in Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania.

Kugler’s short trail is approximately ¼ mile long, uphill on the way to the waterfall, and parallels a shallow stream. Due to the steep drop-offs and a rocky trail path, the trail has been widened in areas, and a low concrete wall was constructed along an area where the drop-off was once dangerously steep. Now that this bracing has been set in place, you can be sure of a safe, enjoyable hike. However, do keep in mind that moss growing on some of the larger rocks makes caution during damp or wet weather a must.

Near the end of the trail, a series of wide steps have been constructed to allow hikers to reach the base of the waterfall. Prior to the installation of the steps, reaching the base was a little tricky and required having to climb over a large deposit of rocks. The waterfall is seasonal and dependent on precipitation levels. Flowing or not, the natural architecture, scenery and peacefulness of Kugler Woods is a great discovery. Visit http://hunterdonlandtrust.org/where-we-work/visit-a-preserve/ for more information and directions.

A new Hunterdon Land Trust Trail at Diamond Creek provides a gateway to an extensive trail system running throughout the Alexauken Creek Valley. The trailhead begins on the right about half way up the dirt lane from the parking area on Guilick Road and is marked with triangular red Hunterdon Land Trust blazes on posts and trees. This is one of the highest points in Hunterdon County with sweeping views towards the northwest into Pennsylvania and the Delaware Water Gap. You cross a lovely farm field walking about ¼ mile along a row of trees on your left. The trail turns to the left and descends into the woods where it connects with the D&R Greenway trail at Pryde’s Point. From here you can walk the D&R trail loop (about 1 mile) through the Alexauken Creek Valley which will bring you back to the top of the dirt lane and down to the parking area.
A bit off the beaten path in Lambertville, Kyle’s Trail is a short, mostly flat, low-impact trail perfect for a quick venture into the woods for both adults and children. Thanks to the work of many volunteers, the trail has been marked and is very well maintained. Red blazes have been posted for easy navigation, and a matching bird house has even been hung to accommodate avian visitors.

The trail is dedicated to and named for Pfc. Kyle P. Donnelly who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. On August 18, 2006, Kyle died as a result of a car accident at a nearby location while home on pre-deployment leave. As you walk the trail, a true sense of patriotism can overcome you. One can’t help but think of Kyle’s contribution to protecting our beautiful country, which ultimately leads to being able to enjoy our lands such as this in leisure.

To find Kyle’s Trail from Route 179 South in Lambertville, turn left onto Swan Road. Take the second right onto Studdiford Street, which will turn into Goat Hill Road. Located just a short distance up the road is the Chimney Hill Estate Inn, a Bed and Breakfast, where parking is permitted with permission. From the driveway of the Bed and Breakfast, walk left and the trail head is approximately 20 yards up on the right side. A green welcoming sign “Kyle’s Trail” is located roadside and is easy to spot.

The preserve is managed by Raritan Township and the Hunterdon Land Trust and open to the public. There is a parking area on Klinesville Road just north of Barton Hollow Road.

Cooper’s hawk, wild turkeys and many songbirds also inhabit the property. A stretch of the Assiscong Creek, a tributary of the South Branch of the Raritan River, which provides drinking water to over a million New Jersey residents also wonders through the property.

“There aren’t many chances to preserve a property in Raritan Township where you can go for a walk through woods and fields, and still have that feeling of being totally surrounded by nature,” said Kate Buttolph, Director of Land Acquisition and Stewardship for the Hunterdon Land Trust. “That sensation makes all the years of work to preserve this farm worthwhile.”

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What you’re about the Hunterdon Land Trust

I’ve lived in Somerset County since 1968, and have witnessed the over-development and sprawl. I now want to support the Hunterdon Land Trust and similar organizations working to save our open space and natural lands.

“Experiencing the sense of community that the Farmer’s Market and Day on the Land events engender.”

“I have witnessed the wonderful work in preservation that Hunterdon Land Trust does and have made use of the special places that have been preserved. The farm market at the old farm is also a fantastic idea.”

“THE BEAUTY OF SO MUCH OF THE COUNTY AND THE DANGER OF LOSING IT. WHAT A RARE TREAT TO HAVE ALL THIS 60 MILES FROM NEW YORK.”
Recently we asked you what inspires you to support the Hunterdon Land Trust. Here’s a sampling of what you said.

“I remember when bulldozers were threatening the farms and forest of our county at an alarming rate -- seems every time you turned the corner, another farm had turned into a sprawling subdivision. The Hunterdon Land Trust filled the void and preserved land, demonstrated that there was an alternative. I appreciate that the land trust gets the job done.”

“We travel a lot, overseas and in the US of A, and Hunterdon is a truly beautiful place. Wildlife and the natural world are always under human assault, and it is good to try to do something to maintain the health of our local land. I moved to Hunterdon for the open space, farms and availability of farm markets. I want this to continue to be available.”

“I had been a visitor to Hunterdon County since I was a child, spending time on my uncle’s dairy farm and visiting relatives there. Now I am a resident and am very pleased to be living here.”
You can do more than you thought to protect the places you love in Hunterdon County! Many employers will match your gift, doubling or even tripling its impact. Check with your human resources contact to see if your company will make a match for nature.

The Hunterdon Land Trust is also lucky to be participating in a special matching program with the Central Bucks Bicycle Club and the Princeton Free-wheelers. Keep the roads you cycle on beautiful! If you are a member of either club and make a donation to the Hunterdon Land Trust, they will make an additional $10 donation.