



CONSERVATION MATTERS

HUNTERDON LAND TRUST

SUMMER 2014

7,500 Acres and Counting!

You did it! Your passion for protecting the places we love in Hunterdon County has enabled the Hunterdon Land Trust to preserve more than 7,500 acres. Your commitment has helped keep fields green and farmlands fertile. It has created natural sanctuaries where families can hike, fish or just enjoy the sweet trilling of birds. And, it means your children and your children's children will enjoy clean water to drink.

As we work together toward our goal of preserving 10,000 acres here in Hunterdon County by the year 2020, we thank you for donating and volunteering and caring for all these special places. For this land is our legacy and our home.

During the past several months, we've celebrated preservation victories in several towns, including Kingwood, Readington and Franklin Township. *Here are two stories of recent preservations that you made happen:*

HLT Preserves the Family Farm

Horoschak Farm, Pittstown Road, Franklin Township

Almost a century later, Ted Horoschak still remembers the polluting of the Raritan River. His father frequently took him to a favorite spot for fishing and crabbing, but everything changed seemingly overnight. Industry had moved into northern New Jersey, dumping chemicals into the river. They arrived one morning to see rats and dogs along the water's edge, feasting on the dead fish that had washed ashore.



Ted Horoschak

Photo courtesy of the Hunterdon County Democrat

"My father and I were in our fishing boat and
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Frog Parties and Birdsong

Lockatong Rec Area, County Rte 519, Kingwood Twp.

A chorus of birdsong echoes from the lush canopy of trees in the recently christened Lockatong Recreation Area that Chester Podpora sought to preserve. The tall grass sways gently like waves in a dark green sea. Chester has tramped every inch of this land many times since first purchasing it in the late 1960s; he knows its beauty and its blemishes. Anyone who walks the trail along the Lockatong Creek as it shimmers in the afternoon sun can readily appreciate why this land is so special and so worth protecting.

"I don't know how you can live in Hunterdon County and
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Barred Owl

Photo by Joseph Celeste

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Efforts to preserve and steward both of these properties, the Tom Saeger Preserve and others like it, also support the goals of the National Park Service's Lower Delaware *Wild & Scenic Program*, which aims to protect the natural, historic and recreational resources that earned this stretch of the river the *Wild and Scenic* designation. Funding from *Wild & Scenic* supports our efforts to protect the places you love. Learn more by visiting the "Caring for Special Places" page on our website at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org.

From the Executive Director... Thanks for All the Beautiful Places You Helped Protect

Wow. All I can say is thanks!

Three years ago, the board of the Hunterdon Land Trust set a goal to preserve **10,000 acres** of open space and farmland by the year 2020.

With six years still to go, we are three-quarters of the way there!

We are so proud to have preserved more than 7,500 acres, and it's all because of you.

Your passion for protecting the places we love ensures clean drinking water, productive farmlands and beautiful places to hike and bike.

We celebrate this milestone while Hunterdon County commemorates its 300th anniversary. As this series of yearlong events acknowledges our county's historic past, we can all feel proud to know our rich heritage is being preserved in these rural landscapes.

We could never have come this far without your generous

support, your stalwart belief in our vision, and your commitment to preserving, for our children and our children's children, the land our great-grandparents knew.

As a new mother, I am grateful to be part of a community that cares deeply about the legacy we are preserving for those we love most. As I enjoy every precious moment with my daughter, I look forward to exploring these treasures with her and sharing all the wonderful places that you helped preserve.



Patricia Ruby

Patricia Ruby is Executive Director of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

HLT PRESERVES THE FAMILY FARM - cont. from page 1

we never saw so many dead fish – thousands of them belly up – floating up the river and into the ocean. The stink was terrible,” Ted said.

Now, having just celebrated his 102nd birthday, Ted and his family have helped protect the water quality of the Lockatong Creek and the natural beauty of the surrounding land by preserving their 125-acre Franklin Township farm, known alternately as White Birch Farm or the Horoschak Farm, off Pittstown Road.

Ted began farming the land in the late 1940s. He moved here after World War II and spent two months convalescing from a bout with malaria. He learned the trade by working with his father-in-law (whom Ted still calls “the old man”) until a neighboring parcel of land became available at auction.

He worked and cared for the land with his wife, Sophie, for 65 years, planting soybeans, corn and grains. He farmed while also working at a General Motors plant in Trenton.

Needless to say, much has changed over the decades. Ted recalls how dairy farms – including his father-in-law's – ringed the surrounding lands, and how his Black Wilson and Indian Head soybeans grew like grapes. (These early varieties can no longer be found, Ted says.) He also marvels at no-till machines. “You can go out on the field and

do everything in one shot. You just plant it and watch it grow,” he laughs.

Ted cherishes the land and speaks about its history with warmth and wonder. Years back, he found reminders left behind by those whose footsteps once touched this fertile soil: The arrow heads of the Native Americans, a ring that may have belonged to early Europeans, a whiskey still bootleggers built beside a bend in the Lockatong Creek.

Ted credits his son, Richard, for wanting to preserve the land; Richard quickly replies that his dad was the driving force.

“I had hoped originally to preserve this as parkland, because it has wide open plateaus and beautiful views, but it didn't work out,” Richard said. “Farmland was the next best option. Thank God for the Hunterdon Land Trust getting involved, because it got this preserved as farmland.”

“I grew up here, and there are different sections of the farm and certain groves of trees that are special to me,” Richard continues. “We're right between the Lockatong and Wickecheoke creeks, which flow nearby, so this preservation is important to the water quality and the environment. When I was young, my father would show me things on this land that would add a specialness and mystique into everything on the farm. There's so much history wherever you look – whether it's the Indians or slaves or whiskey distillers during Prohibition. Every piece of this farm has its own history; its own unique feel to it. Preserving this land was important to us.”



Discover the Magic of Freshly Picked Food at Our Farmer's Market

As a child of the 1970s, dinner at my house meant potatoes out of a box, "cheese" out of a jar, and vegetables out of a can. My Mom embraced the age of cooking convenience like a long-lost sibling. She'd rush home from work, boil some water, rip open a box, cut a bag, and abracadabra ... dinner was sitting on the table.

The food didn't exactly taste magical.

None of this is meant to insinuate that my Mom didn't love us kids. She took great care in choosing and getting to know the family doctor and dentist. Heck, she and my Dad even got personalized Christmas cards from Sal the barber and Frank the auto mechanic.

When my wife and I adopted our little girl, we were determined to forgo the frozen pizzas and eat as healthily as possible. We got to know our local health food store – the Basil Bandwagon Natural Market, also a sponsor of the HLT Farmers' Market – and are getting to know area farmers as well. It makes sense to get to know the people who produce our food: the vegetables, fruits, meats and cheeses so vital to our health, sustenance and nutrition.

For several years now, trips to the Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market have been a family affair. Even before I joined the staff, I loved the authenticity of the Land Trust's producers-only Farmers' Market, and the fact that it's held on an actual farm, surrounded by barns and fields and trees, with the beautiful 1798 Dvor stone house in the background.

Now celebrating its 8th season, the Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market is open every Sunday from 9 AM to 1 PM, through Nov. 23.

The winter Farmers' Market is open the third Sunday of the month, from 11 AM to 1 PM, from December to April.

Everyone in my family has their priorities: My daughter beelines to Tassot Apiaries for honeystix, and then Bobolink for roasted garlic duck fat bread. By then she's worked up an appetite and is ready to check out the breakfast and lunch specials at the Fired Up Flatbread food truck. My wife swings by the produce farm stands: Phillips, Sweet Valley, Sandbrook Meadow and Comeback. I'm partial to Fulper Farms' mozzarella; then I might head over to Griggstown's stand for chicken or Headquarters Farm for lamb. But the last stop is always Villa Milagro, where my wife and I grab a bottle of wine to complement the dinner we're going to make with all this fresh delicious food.

We learn something new every time we visit the market and chat with the farmers. Maybe it'll be a new way to make pesto, keep arugula fresh or grill sausages. We have a clearer understanding of seasonal eating and enjoying local foods when their taste and nutritional value are at their peak.

We've also discovered that prices between larger food stores and the market are comparable. In fact, a recent NOFA study concluded that, on average, organic products are actually less expensive at farmers' markets.

But nothing beats the flavor and freshness of local food. We cherish our time together shopping and, later, preparing the meal and sitting down to eat. It truly is magical.

– Dave Harding, Director of Outreach

Our Storytelling Series

Look for these upcoming storytelling events at our Farmers' Market:

Sept. 7 - Carol Titus and Ken Galipeau in the Dvor Farm house at 10 AM and 11:30 AM. Titus is co-founder of the New Jersey Storytelling Network and facilitates the New Jersey Storytelling Guild. Galipeau is a collector of stories, songs and poems that touch both hearts and funny bones.

Nov. 2 - Carol Simon Levin will tell Halloween stories from 10 AM to noon under the big tent at the Farmers' Market. Levin has more than 20 years of experience as a children's library telling stories and sharing songs with young audiences.

Nov. 9 - Poet Daniel Harris will hold a reading and discussion in the Dvor Farm house at 10:30 AM.

*The Storytelling Series sponsors are Flemington-based
Twice Told Tales/The Moonstone Mystery Bookstore and Act 2 Books.*

Digging Up the Past at the Dvoor Farm

So, what lurks just beneath the surface of the Case/Dvoor historic farmstead? What can we learn about this historic property, among the first to be settled by Europeans? What was the surrounding area like when the Lenni Lenapes hunted the land and fished the waters?

In an effort to leave no stone unturned – or plant or blade of grass – ground-penetrating radar equipment was wheeled last winter across the snow to pinpoint areas that might yield clues about the past. This machine is similar to what was used to find the remains of King Richard III in a Leicester parking lot.

While we didn't find any British royalty resting beside the Walnut Brook, tantalizing discoveries were made. Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust, archeologists conducted shovel tests three feet below the surface, sifting through each bit of earth in search of artifacts.

Early test results uncovered 18th century archeological deposits of the first stone house built in the 1750s by Johan Philip Case, who purchased the land in 1730 from the sons of William Penn and befriended Chief Tuccamirgan. The house, torn down in the mid-1800s, was similar in appearance to the stone Dvoor Farm house that currently stands.

Evidence of fragmentary foundations and building rubble belonging to 19th-century miners' houses may also have been discovered. The mining industry arrived in the 1840s following the discovery of copper flecks in the stream. The discovery set off a flurry of activity, as copper companies streamed into the area with visions of dollar signs dancing in the heads of the men who ran them. But the dance proved elusive, the visions never became reality, and the companies disappeared shortly after the Civil War ended.

The archeologists also found historic ceramics and bottle glass, tobacco pipes, buttons, nails and building hardware, plaster, mortar, bricks and animal bones.

As Hunterdon County celebrates its 300th anniversary, we are excited about what we're learning about our local past here at the Dvoor Farm. And you helped make all this happen! We're able to explore our past and our agricultural heritage because you wanted to see this farm preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Here at the Dvoor Farm, much work remains in our ongoing efforts to interpret and understand the early history of this land. In addition to the digs, the Land Trust continues to work on a historic site management plan. Also, earlier this year, we hosted our Treasure Hunterdon fundraiser which encouraged people to explore several historic sites in the county including the Dvoor Farm house. So many wonderful people did an amazing job putting this event together.

So, what else do we have to learn? Stay tuned! We've only scratched the surface.

Nature Nurtures: Frogs, But

Next time you visit the Idell Preserve in Kingwood, where we recently added two acres to an existing 55-acre preserve, stop by the vernal pools and check out the salamanders, frogs and turtles frolicking

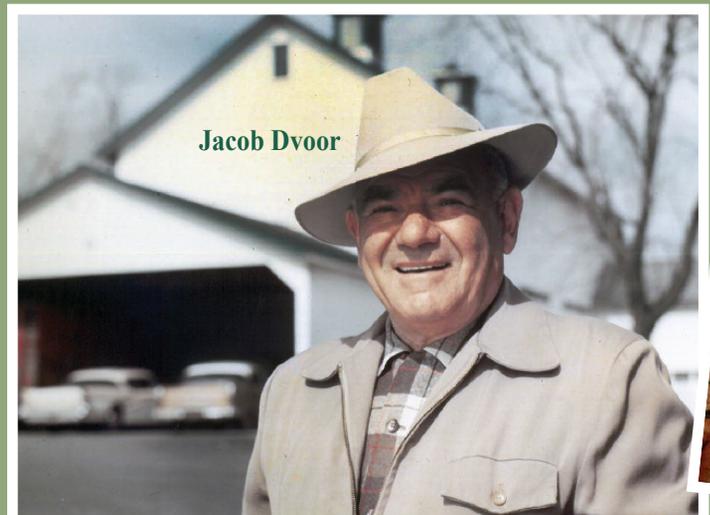


about. If you travel to Horseshoe Bend Preserve in the summer, you might share your hike with a few carefree floating butterflies. And don't forget to pause in the soon-to-open Lockatong Recreation Area to enjoy the birdsong echoing from the trees above.

The wildlife you'll discover at the Hunterdon Land Trust's preserves is a treat for the senses. But besides being pretty to look at or enchanting to hear, the wildlife inhabiting the

Photographs and Memories

Debbie Dvoor Hylton has many fond memories happily shared them with us recently. Her father ran the Dvoor farm for years, and she brought along many memories including a pair of ledgers written in Hebrew by her father, scrap books, an ashtray and calendar at the Dvoor Farm. She also brought this whiskey bottle with the Dvoor Bros. label that was handed out to select customers.



Jacob Dvoor



Butterflies and Raccoons Provide Many Benefits to Our Preserves



preserves serves a vital function that's mutually beneficial for people, the animals and the land.

Amphibians, butterflies, moths and other wildlife serve as critical indicators of an area's environmental health because they are sensitive to pollution and other environmental hazards. For instance, a

healthy amphibian population at the Idell Preserve offers important evidence that we are preserving critical resources in the Lockatong Creek watershed to protect this source of high quality water.



And those frogs splashing in a pond may add a whimsical touch to a hike, but they're also chowing down on mosquitoes that might otherwise be biting your leg.

Even common wildlife, like raccoons, which are sometimes viewed as a nuisance, offer surprising benefits. *Woodlands Wildlife Refuge** located in Pittstown, which does wonderful work treating orphaned and injured animals before returning them to their natural habitat, released several baby raccoons at the Saeger Preserve. Raccoons have a role to play in a native ecosystem: They spread seeds when foraging, eat poison ivy berries to reduce the plant's spread, and serve as prey for owls and eagles.

We hold several events at our preserves annually that encourage everyone to learn more about wildlife and the environment. Visit our website and "like" us on Facebook to learn about future events.

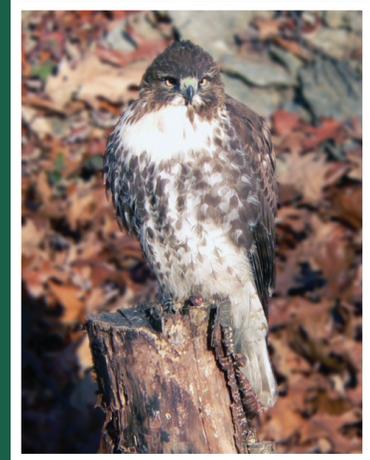


Photo by Joseph Celeste

** If you find injured wildlife, contact the Refuge at 908-730-8300 for assistance.*

You Can Find Recently Hidden Treasures at Dvoor, Too!

...ies of the family farm and father, Melvin, worked at the ...ng numerous mementos in- by her grandfather Jacob ...ar advertising the Dvoor with ...o

Don't be surprised one day if you happen to come across someone wandering about the Dvoor Farm hunched over a GPS. This summer, members of Girl Scout Troop 80899 set up three geocaches - called Jacob's Thinking Spot, Make a Wish, and Farmer Case's Field - on the Dvoor Farm.

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity where participants use a Global Positioning System or other such device to find containers known as geocaches that are hidden. Think of it as a real-world treasure hunt using satellites to help you find your way. The containers will include various toys or trinkets and a logbook, which participants are expected to sign and date. You can take one of the toys, but are expected to leave something in its place.

Geocaching is quite popular in this area. A quick search of the Raritan Township zip code on a geocaching website returned more than 40,000 different geocaches throughout Hunterdon County and other nearby communities.

We'd tell you where our geocaches are, but that would spoil the fun! If you'd like to learn more www.geocaching.com is a great place to start.

The Girl Scouts of Troop 80899 did a fabulous job hiding geocaches on the farm.



FROG PARTIES AND BIRDSONG - cont. from page 1

Chester Podpora and his neighbor Alfie Grillo get ready to explore the Lockatong Recreation Area Preserve.

not care about land conservation,” his neighbor, Alfie Grillo, says as we walk along these seven acres of mostly woodlands off County Route 519 in Kingwood.

The two neighbors are intimately familiar with this land and its wildlife. They cheerfully note the passage of seasons by the many birds that flock to this preserve. Over the years they have spotted Blue Herons, Great Horned Owls, Red-Bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, Scarlet Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles. They recall the time when they saw wood ducks by the creek, or when Red-Tail Hawks nested nearby.

Land Steward Tom Thorsen predicts this preserve could become the Land Trust’s most visited, thanks to the wildlife and because the creek is good for trout fishing. He hopes to begin clearing any debris and marking trails later this year. Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information about upcoming stewardship events including dates and directions to reach the preserve. (The bridge on Route 519 over the preserve is closed.)

Podpora cherishes memories of the “frog parties” families and friends would have when they wandered along the creek at night with flashlights searching for frogs. To this day, he still marvels at what he finds in the woods.

“One night, I’m walking in the back of the property and I see something moving above. It’s a Great Horned Owl and he lands on a branch maybe 10 or 12 feet in front of me, and I’m frozen in midstride. I don’t want to move because I see him and he’s staring right at me. Then he turns away, but then – zoom – he’s looking right at me again. So I don’t move and he seems OK with me and just sits there for five minutes before he takes off. Where can you see this? And it’s right in your own backyard! I’d work all day, and come home and sit out here by the creek, maybe light up a cigar, sit back and just watch the birds. Some people like to go to the bar, but that’s not for me.”

Options To Help Protect the Places You Love!

Help us reach our goal of preserving 10,000 acres and continuing to care for Hunterdon County’s special places by donating to the Hunterdon Land Trust. Here are just two ways you can help:

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.

Matching Gifts: Here’s an easy way to 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.

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, call 908-237-4582, or visit www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/donate

Volunteering to Help Nature and Learning a Few New Skills



Steadfast volunteer Joyce Koch

Joyce Koch knows the importance of stewarding the land and sums it up quite succinctly:

“What’s the point in having all these properties if you don’t take care of them?” she asks.

Joyce, a former HLT Trustee, is one of a number of volunteers who donates her time and energy to care for the properties preserved by the Hunterdon Land Trust.

“For Hunterdon County, the Land Trust is a key organization that’s focused on land preservation and stewardship,” Joyce says. “It’s the one place that you can put your money and know that it’s going specifically for preserving and caring for the land.”

The Land Trust monitors and stewards every property it preserves, and volunteers are the lifeblood of this effort: Removing invasive plants, improving wildlife habitats, and marking and clearing trails for hiking and biking. Planting native trees is also important to fight soil erosion, filter nutrients from agricultural runoff that could otherwise get into a stream and to provide food for wildlife. Joyce has lent a helping hand to all these tasks and more in her 15 years as a volunteer.

“Let’s face it: We’re all in this together. We have to do what we can to help nature. Our forests aren’t going to regenerate themselves. We have to work to keep what we have and maintain it,” she says.

And while one gives of him or herself while volunteering, it’s a reciprocal relationship with an excellent return.

“One of the best ways to learn new skills is to volunteer,” Joyce says. “You learn so much about your own area, like what kinds of trees and plants are here, and how to take care of them. All this knowledge is something you can

take home and use.” Joyce said volunteering helped her learn more about identifying and properly removing invasive plants, something she is now doing on her own property.

Joyce has worked on several Land Trust preserves, but Zega Lockatong in Delaware Township may be her favorite. She conducted some plant studies there, taking an inventory of the various species along the riverside. She also helped plant trees to help reforest the preserve. “Zega Lockatong has a really nice trail,” Joyce says. “It has some beautiful fields and forest, and is very accessible. It has a nice picnic area too.”

More recently, the Land Trust has focused its efforts on caring for the Tom Saeger Preserve in Holland Township. Volunteers have visited on several occasions to remove invasive plants, and last winter deer fencing was installed to give new plants the chance to take root. Thanks to these efforts, the forests have an opportunity to thrive, and the farm field is cleared of invasives to the point where native trees can be planted this fall.

“Saeger has a lot of potential, and it’s really impressive to see all the work that has been done out there,” Joyce says.



Want to learn new things, feel a sense of accomplishment and help our environment here in Hunterdon County? We encourage you to “Like” us on Facebook or sign up on our website for our email newsletter to learn about future volunteer opportunities with the Land Trust.

A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors

We want to thank our Partners in Preservation who sponsor the Hunterdon



Land Trust: Basil Bandwagon Natural Market; Team Capital Bank; Thomas McMillan with Weidel Realtors; Princeton Hydro; Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc.; Flemington Bituminous Corp.; ShopRite of Hunterdon County; Golden Pheasant Inn; Gattuso Media Design; River Valley Realty; Jardim, Meisner & Susser, P.C.

We kindly encourage you to support the businesses that support us!





An Unforgettable Farm to Table Dinner

September 28, 2014

From the first bite of your delicious appetizer to the scraping of your fork across the plate for that last morsel of dessert, you and your tummy will love our annual Farm to Table dinner.

Join us Sunday, Sept. 28 at the Grand Colonial on Route 73 in Hampton starting at 4 PM for this unforgettable full-course dinner where local farm-fresh food takes center stage. Chefs Christine Ayres from the Grand Colonial, Ed and Amy Coss from the Milford Oyster House, Jonas Gold from 55 Main, Matt

McPherson from Matt's Red Rooster, and Susan Peterson from Teaberry's are combining their talents using local food from our Farmers' Market vendors to create a truly special night.

Tickets cost \$125 each. All proceeds benefit the Hunterdon Land Trust's efforts to protect the places you love. It's a great dinner for a great cause!

Contact Christine Dimas at the Hunterdon Land Trust office at Christine@hunterdonlandtrust.org or call 908-237-4582 to reserve your seat.



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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

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