CELEBRATING 15 YEARS!

CONSERVATION MATTERS

SUMMER 2011 | SPECIAL EDITION

HUNTERDON LAND TRUST

The Hunterdon Land Trust *turns* 15

Fifteen years ago, a group of volunteers founded the Hunterdon Land Trust. They shared a deep love for and desire to protect the special places of their county. Over the years they were joined by more volunteers, landowners, members, friends, neighbors, partners and staff. Together we have saved over 5,000 acres of land from development - places to hike, grow local food, or simply enjoy the beauty of nature.

TAKE A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF THE SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM THE LAND TRUST'S HISTORY.

1996

SAVE OUR LAND!

Rapidly sprawling development is the spark that inspires local citizens to action.

LEFT: Founding member Roger Harris and Robert Reid with the land trust's first sign.

THE HUNTERDON LAND TRUST ALLIANCE IS BORN!

1999

FAMILY FARMS PROTECTED

It's a banner year when the land trust completes its first two land preservation projects. A 36 acre family farm in West Amwell township becomes the first property to be preserved by the Hunterdon Land Trust. The second is the landmark Dvoor Farm in Flemington, currently home to the Hunterdon Land Trust headquarters.

2003

WE'VE GOT STAFF!

The all-volunteer land trust hires its first full time staff member, Executive Director, Margaret Waldock. Shortly after the land trust celebrates protecting our first 1,000 acres!

2006

TAKE A HIKE

Mimi's trail completed in honor of Mimi Upmeyer, a founding land trust member. Visitors enjoy a quiet walk on the Lockatong Preserve in Stockton.

2007

THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR

Local farmers' market opens for its first season at the Dvoor Farm. Local eaters rejoice!

2010

MAJOR MILESTONE

The land trust celebrates protecting 5,000 acres from development. Drinking water is cleaner, local food enjoyed and the natural beauty of Hunterdon County is sought out by hikers, cyclists, and nature lovers.

2011

BIRTHDAY WISH!

The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance becomes the Hunterdon Land Trust and blows out the candles on our birthday cake. Plans to preserve another 10,000 acres of farms, forests and fields get underway.

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Greetings
FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Everyone has a place they love. That farm you drive by on your way home after a busy day or a path through the woods where you walk your dog. Maybe it's your garden or the view out your back door.

The place you love may inspire you, or soothe you, or feel like home. The Hunterdon Land Trust protects all those places.

Our work is made possible by people. People like you who know that the places we love in Hunterdon County are worth protecting. Thank you for making the first 15 years of the Hunterdon Land Trust a success. I look forward to the next 15 years.

~ Margaret Waldock
Executive Director

From the President

At a recent land trust conference, I was part of a group that was asked why we were involved in land preservation. I was surprised at the variety of responses. Most people stressed that land preservation is a practical response to ever-increasing development pressure. Protecting clean water and fertile soil simply makes good sense, and preservation is an effective way for communities to manage growth and stabilize property taxes. For others, the reasons were more personal. They viewed nature as a source of beauty and inspiration that requires protection, just as we protect great works of art.

For me, being involved with the Hunterdon Land Trust resonates with a deep-seated connection to home and family and a sense of generational responsibility. In my view, it comes down to a simple question: What kind of community do we want to leave to our children? Do we want it to be a place with abundant clean water and fresh air, where healthy food is grown at local farms and everyone can enjoy open spaces and beautiful landscapes?

Together, we can create this community, but it requires planning, hard work, vigilance and, yes, money. For me, it's a commitment I gladly undertake – to protect the places I love for the people I love.

~ John Gattuso
President, Hunterdon Land Trust

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Fulfilling A VISION

ABOVE: *A Place Worth Protecting*
PHOTO BY: *Patti Quinby*

The idea of preserving land is both simple and powerful. We all want to leave a legacy of clean and plentiful water, beautiful places, fresh local food, and a home for wildlife to thrive. While the idea is simple, the act of preserving land is complicated and often takes years of sustained effort and lots of partners and friends to succeed.

At the Hunterdon Land Trust the idea and act of preservation come together. We work with landowners to protect large unbroken expanses of fields, forests and farms. Some of the places we preserve remain as privately held farms, forever protected from development.

Other places are owned and cared for by the land trust or one of our many partners as parkland and preserves, places for people to enjoy the natural beauty of Hunterdon County, and experience the many benefits of preservation.

In 2010 we added nine places totaling 750 acres to our growing greenbelts in Hunterdon County, including the Thomas Saeger Preserve in the Holland Highlands, now a part of 150 acres of preserved land and home to Bluebirds, Woodthrush and Veery as well as the Jefferson salamander and the Eastern Box Turtle – both NJ species of special concern.

locavores Love
THE HUNTERDON LAND TRUST FARMERS' MARKET

A record number of local food lovers came to the Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers Market at the Historic Dvoor Farm in 2010. An average of 1000 shoppers a week came to meet up with friends and neighbors, enjoy the sunshine and local musicians and of course for the fresh local foods and goods.

open sundays
9 AM TO 1 PM
MAY 15 TO NOVEMBER 20, 2011
111 MINE STREET, FLEMINGTON, NJ

FAMILY FARMING continues

ABOVE: *Jonathan White and Bobolink cows*
PHOTO BY: *Kate Buttolph.*

THE STAMETS FARM, new home to Bobolink Dairy was preserved this past year. The Hunterdon Land Trust worked with two farm families and a multitude of funding partners to ensure this 200 acre farm would not succumb to its final crop – development. After over 200 years of farming the land is now home Bobolink Dairy, a sustainably managed dairy farm owned and operated by Jonathan and Nina White and their three children. If you haven't tried their cheese, you don't know what you're missing. Come to our farmers' market to find out!

home at last

At the end of 2010 the land trust moved into our permanent home at the Dvoor Farm, a preserved 18th century farmstead in Flemington, New Jersey owned by the land trust since 1999. It is home and we are thankful to the families who resided here before us for taking such good care of this special place.

This is the place that we work and play, home to our offices and our farmers market, an old growth forest management project, stream and wetlands restoration and a new native grass meadow. We aim to take good care of this place and make it a living showcase of our efforts to protect the places we all love.

Come and visit us sometime, the back door is always open.

THANK YOU for 15 years OF SUPPORT

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS ARE SPECIAL. They help you grow up and stand by you through thick and thin. Fortunately, the land trust has made lots of good friends through the years – landowners, volunteers, local businesses and individual members are all important conservation partners. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary we extend a **HEARTY AND SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EARLIEST FRIENDS**, the folks who have supported the land trust from the very beginning with their time, their financial contributions and their unwavering passion for protecting the **SPECIAL PLACES OF HUNTERDON COUNTY.**

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make new friends

As a nonprofit organization we depend on people like you who support and celebrate our efforts to protect the places we all love in Hunterdon County. Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.hlta.org, and join the more than 800 supporters and friends of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

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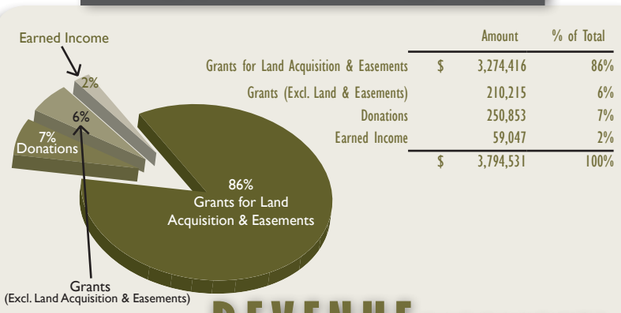
Thank You

TO OUR 2010 MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

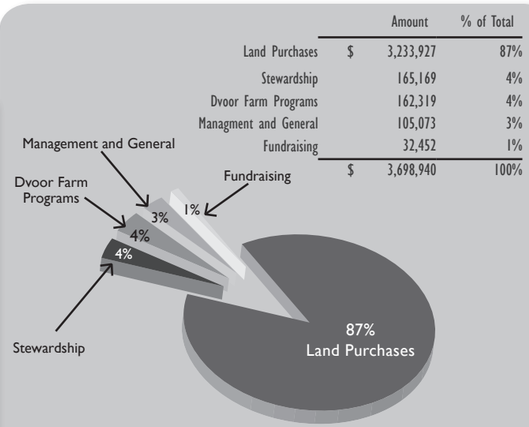
Your financial support makes the land preservation and stewardship programs of the Hunterdon Land Trust possible.

2010 FINANCIAL REVIEW



	Amount	% of Total
Grants for Land Acquisition & Easements	$ 3,274,416	86%
Grants (Excl. Land & Easements)	210,215	6%
Donations	250,853	7%
Earned Income	59,047	2%
	$ 3,794,531	100%

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS



	Amount	% of Total
Land Purchases	$ 3,233,927	87%
Stewardship	165,169	4%
Dvoor Farm Programs	162,319	4%
Managment and General	105,073	3%
Fundraising	32,452	1%
	$ 3,698,940	100%

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Please sign up for our email updates at www.hlta.org.

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email: info@hlta.org
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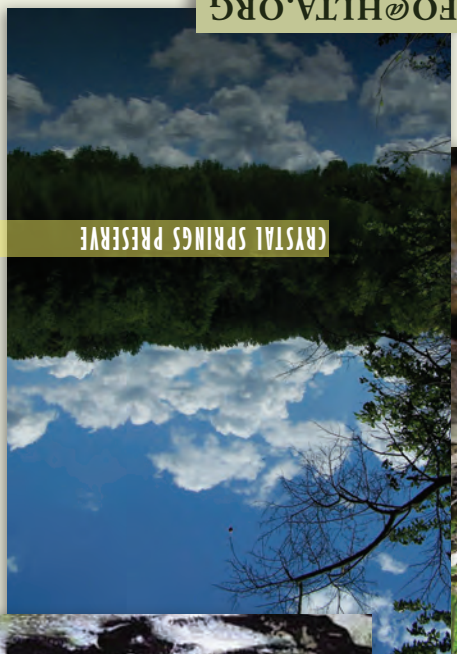
Celebrating 15 years

of protecting the places we all love.

Here are just a few of our **FAVORITE PLACES** in Hunterdon County. We're charting the **PRESERVATION COURSE** for our next 15 years, and we want to know about the places you love and why they are special. **TELL US** about the **PLACES YOU LOVE** to hike, or bike, or the farm that grows the corn you love to eat.

SEND A PHOTO and/or description of one of your favorite places **TO INFO@HLTA.ORG**

QUAKERTOWN PRESERVE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