



HUNTERDON LAND TRUST
at the Historic Dvoor Farm
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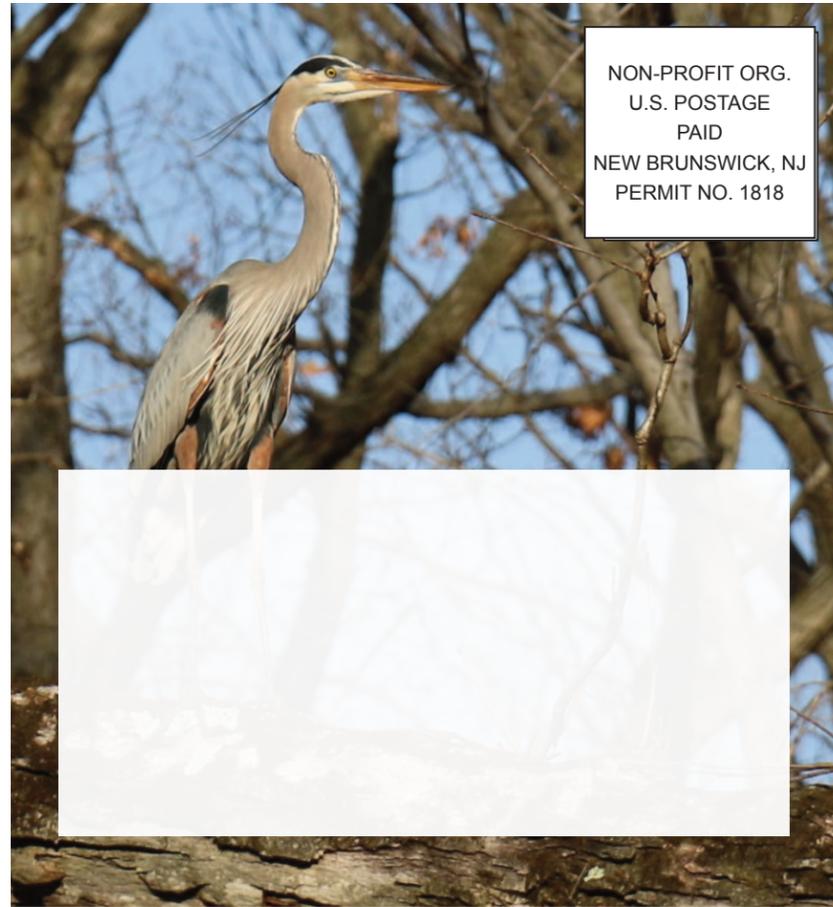
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Scan this handy QR code or visit our Facebook page:
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Information filed with the attorney general concerning the charitable solicitation and the percentage of contributions received by the charity 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

You never know what you might see when you're out exploring a preserve — such as this blue heron hanging out on a branch. >



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CONSERVATION MATTERS

HUNTERDON LAND TRUST
SUMMER 2015

Many Hearts and Hands Help Nurture Saeger Preserve

Many hands come together. Hands that meet across a table in congratulations for a property preserved. Hands that dig through the soil to plant tree after tree so that one day a leafy green canopy will spread like a filigree across the sky. Hands that rip out autumn olive, mile-a-minute weeds and other invasives that threaten to choke the land's natural habitat.

Many hearts come together. Hearts young and old that are devoted to the land and this special place we call home. Hearts that intuitively grasp the innate relationship we share with the land and water around us.

We rekindle and revivify our relationship with the land when we take care of it. We think differently about the world around us and understand more fully the bigger picture and our role in it.

And that's why hands of all shapes and sizes, and hearts young and old — but all big and full — gathered at the Saeger Preserve in the Holland Highlands recently on a sun-kissed Saturday morning.

Partners for U.S. Fish and Wildlife provided 800 tree

seedlings, and roughly 30 hardy volunteers gathered to lug deer fencing and tools up the hillside, dig holes and plant those seedlings in the crusty earth. Volunteers planted these trees to prevent soil erosion, improve the wildlife habitat, sequester carbon and filter pollutants. The trees selected are considered to be resilient to droughts and rainy seasons.



Volunteers celebrate a successful tree-planting event at the Saeger Preserve.

Other volunteers had outlined and marked a trail at Saeger Preserve, linking it to open space preserved by Holland Township. That parcel, in turn, connects with the Kolonia North and South preserves that are owned by the Hunterdon Land Trust.

The Saeger Preserve, near 150 Shire Road in Milford, has received a great deal of attention from HLT over the past few years, and with good reason. This parcel was a diamond in the rough — 42 acres of farm fields and

forests with graceful slopes and stunning views yearlong of the countryside.

Neighbor Mike Keady is standing on the brow of the hill.

continued on page 2

Efforts to preserve and steward the Tom Saeger Preserve and other properties, 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. You can learn more by visiting the "Caring for Special Places" page on our website at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org.

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HLT Farm to Table Dinner: A Great Meal for a Great Cause

Enjoy delicious local food expertly prepared at our annual Farm to Table dinner at the Beaver Brook Country Club on Sunday, September 27, 2015. Chefs Matt McPherson of Mat's Red Rooster Grill, Ed Coss from the Milford Oyster House, and Julie Klein from the Lovin' Oven will combine their culinary talents to create a memorable full-course dinner with fresh ingredients provided by our local farmers. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour and silent auction. Tickets cost \$125 each. All proceeds benefit the Hunterdon Land Trust's efforts to protect and care for the places you love here in the Hunterdon County region. It's a great dinner for a great cause!

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



Sunday,
September 27

From the Executive Director... *Connection, Compassion and Victory*

If you have visited our headquarters recently, then you have seen that renovations are underway to create the first building at Dvoor Farm dedicated to public use. When completed, we envision this space will foster additional learning opportunities, community meetings, and endless possibilities for new connections. The project (*read more on page 5*) reflects the deep-seated conviction we all share that our agricultural heritage, cultural resources, and landscapes are inextricably linked.

That sense of place helps shape our memories. Perhaps you've walked through a meadow holding your daughter's hand and flashed back to a time when your father led you along a similar path. Or maybe, the smell of sassafras conjures up a memory of a warm summer evening, a toasted marshmallow on a stick and the sound of crickets chirping in the surrounding woods.

We internalize these places, and they become a part of

Special thanks to our Partners in Preservation: Basil Bandwagon Natural Market; Matt's Red Rooster Grill; Tom McMillan with Weidel Realtors; Provident Bank; Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants Inc.; ShopRite of Hunterdon County; Jardine, Meiser & Susser, P.C.; Brighton Financial Planning; Flemington Chiropractic Center; Hopewell Valley Community Bank; NJ Environmental News; and Peragrin Landscaping.

us. They help define us. When we return to a place — perhaps a forest that has been preserved — we feel reconnected, a little less adrift in the world. We experience a homecoming.

We celebrate that connection too when we care for the land by planting trees or clearing trails so the land is accessible for all to enjoy.

That connection and compassion has enabled us to continue doing your good work. For almost 20 years, you have achieved many victories through the Hunterdon Land Trust that sustain this beautiful place we call home. Enjoy reading about our recent successes in this issue, and thank you for your continued support and unwavering belief in our mission to protect the places you love.



Patricia Ruby is Executive Director of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

HEARTS AND HANDS NURTURE SAEGER - cont. from page 1

He was among the many residents involved at the beginning to protect this tract from development. And, he has a deep connection to the land and the work accomplished here.

"People lived beside this beautiful mountain for centuries, and I don't know, I guess I didn't want to be among the last to experience that," he says, leaning on his spade during a short break. "The Land Trust was enormously helpful in preserving this."

"People said 'Don't fight this; it's a done deal.' You know, there's no guarantee you're going to win, but you're sure going to lose if you don't do anything," he adds, before turning back to his work.

The many project partners who lent a helping hand in preserving this land are Holland Township, Hunterdon County, the New Jersey Green Acres program, the Phillipsburg Riverview Organization and the Victoria Foundation.

HLT's diligent efforts to care for the Saeger Preserve were honored late last year by Hunterdon County with the Herma Lechner Environmental Award. Recently, HLT published a trail guide available online and at our offices and Farmers' Market that can help you enjoy hiking, mountain biking or, in the winter, cross-country skiing there.

While so much has been accomplished, much work remains to be done.

"It's an ongoing effort," says Land Trust Steward Tom Thorsen. "We're constantly fighting to keep out invasive plants that can harm the natural habitat, while planting native species. We're always looking for help."

Wish to lend a helping hand, rekindle a connection with the land and meet others who share your passion? Contact us at 908-237-4582 or email Tom@hunterdonlandtrust.org to learn more.



2 A view from the hilltop at Saeger Preserve in Milford.

Preservation Victories!

Our ceaseless efforts to preserve and protect land in the Hunterdon County region could not have happened without your generous support. Once again, we thank you for donating, volunteering and making these preservation victories possible:

Silva Estate

Ellis Road, Holland Township

This 36-acre wooded parcel is adjacent to Hunterdon County's Musconetcong Preserve and was targeted for preservation by Holland Township. Its preservation ensured that a large contiguous block of forest would remain undeveloped. Another benefit to preserving this property is the access it will provide to the Musconetcong Preserve, which contains two tributaries of the Hakiokake Creek which drains into the Delaware River. In the future, the goal is to make this land available for hiking and other passive recreational activities.

Jacqueline Middleton, HLT's director of land acquisition, said the property was purchased with funding through the New Jersey Green Acres program, a grant from Hunterdon County, and assistance from Holland Township. Hunterdon County now owns the property.

Pfauth/Carman Property

Charlestown Road, Bethlehem Township

Tucked away in the northwest corner of Hunterdon County, this property has great potential for birding, hiking and other passive recreation. Co-owned for several years by Richard Pfauth and Dick Carman, this 66-acre tract is contiguous to property preserved by Hunterdon County.

The property is entirely forested and features slopes and im-

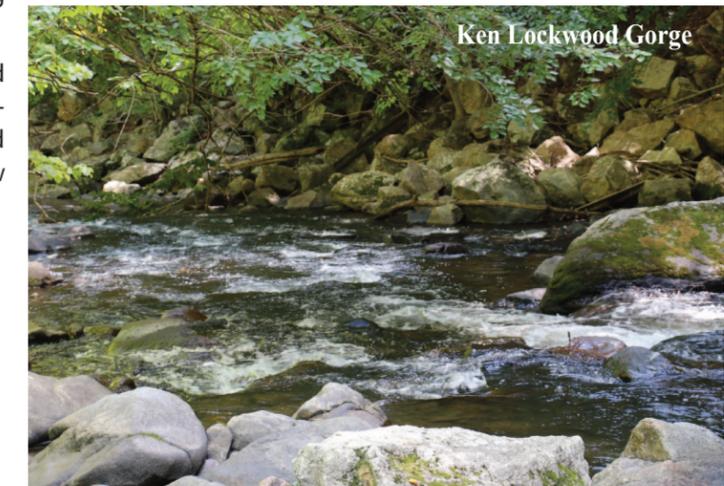


Pfauth/Carman Property

pressive scenic vistas. The land also contains a tributary of the Mulhockaway Creek which drains into the western portion of the Spruce Run Reservoir, and from there into the South Branch of the Raritan River.

"The property will provide additional acreage access to the county's Charlestown Reserve and act as a buffer for an important natural area," Middleton noted. This preservation was made possible by a collaborative effort between HLT, Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County and the state's Green Acres program. Hunterdon County and Bethlehem Township share ownership of the property.

The best way to access the property is via the entrance to Hunterdon County's Charlestown Reserve. You will pass the Pfauth/Carman portion on your left before entering the parking lot to the county reserve's parking lot which is located just before Mullin Lane.



Ken Lockwood Gorge

Ken Lockwood Gorge

Lebanon Township

Truly one of New Jersey's most beautiful places, the Ken Lockwood Gorge is renowned as a great place for fishing, birding, cycling and hiking. Plus, it's a vital source of drinking water for 1.5 million residents because the South Branch of the Raritan River runs through the land.

The Gorge's water supply and recreation amenities increased thanks to the preservation of 50 acres of wooded hillside that slopes down to the river.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation spearheaded the preservation effort with help from the Hunterdon Land Trust, the state Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County, Raritan Headwaters Association, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the Leavens Foundation.

"The Hunterdon Land Trust is proud to have played a role in this project, which will help ensure clean drinking water and provide greater opportunities for the public to enjoy this truly beautiful area in northern Hunterdon County," Middleton said.

Parking is available at the northern and southern ends of the gorge off River Road.

Donate To Help Protect the Places You Love!

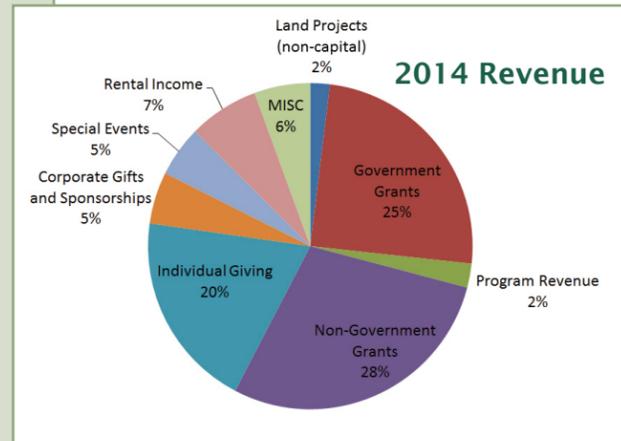
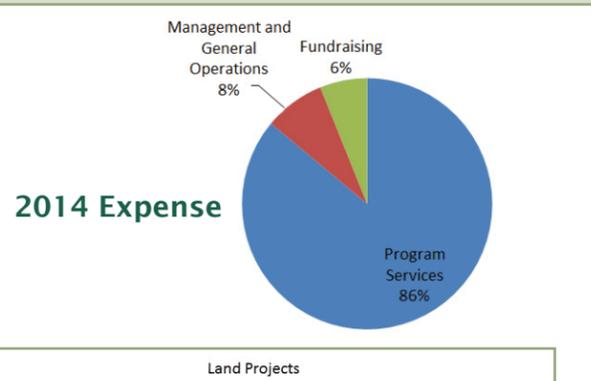
Help the Hunterdon Land Trust continue to do your good work by donating. Your generosity will help us accomplish our goal of preserving 10,000 acres in Hunterdon County and to care for these special places. You can help by sending a check in the envelope included in this newsletter or make a secure online donation at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/get-involved. You can also help with:

Matching Gifts: 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. 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.

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: Please visit our website's "Get Involved" page at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/get-involved.



Thanks for your support, which helps us deliver our core programs!



Comeback Farm's Mark Canright chats with a shopper.

Reconnecting to Nature – and each other – at our Farmers' Market

How can a donut peach or a Brandywine tomato make us feel more connected to the world around us?

Well, come visit our Sunday Farmers' Market and take a casual stroll around. You will see circles of friends, clutching bags loaded with nutritious fresh food, sharing the latest news. You might notice your neighborhood farmer and someone who looks vaguely familiar hovering over a bin of purple eggplants, swapping cooking tips handed down across the generations and speculating on what next week's bounty might bring.

In this market, where people gather to share stories, ideas and recipes, something truly special is going on.

These days, it's easier to launch into a vigorous debate online with someone across the world than to borrow a cup of sugar from a neighbor across the road.

The world grows smaller, yet people drift farther apart.

But at the market, the bonds of community strengthen. Friends old and new reconnect and celebrate nature's harvest.

We're always amazed at the abundance of food our local farmers produce. And it's exciting to take these delicious finds home and share them with others. Give a child a donut peach before Sunday dinner — OK, maybe after, if you don't want to spoil her appetite! — and watch her eyes light up as she takes a bite of this sweet, juicy fruit that bursts with flavor.

Or better yet, knock on your neighbor's door and offer them a couple of those Brandywine tomatoes you brought home and let them discover how much better fresh-picked local food tastes.

This way, even as the world grows smaller, we grow closer together.

– Dave Harding, Director of Outreach

The Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market is open Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through November 22. Our winter market runs the third Sunday of the month from December through April. We're located on the Dvoor Farm, 111 Mine St. off the route 12 circle in Raritan Township.

Lights! Camera! Conservation!

We're always looking for new ways to share our exciting stories about land preservation, stewardship projects, and all the latest activities at the Dvoor Farm. And, thanks to a grant from The Watershed Institute — A Program of the Stony-Brook Millstone Watershed Association, we have a new means to communicate with everyone on the importance of protecting our watershed.

The grant is helping us create several new videos, which will focus on educating and raising awareness in our community on protecting water quality in the Hunterdon County area, to combat invasive plants and to show homeowners how they can help. Plus, we'll share the story of the Dvoor Farm and showcase our water-quality projects and what we do to protect the wetlands and the Walnut Brook which runs through the property.

Later this year, we will introduce these videos on our



HLT's Executive Director Patricia Ruby is filmed for upcoming educational videos by Director of Outreach David Harding.

YouTube channel and share them on Facebook and our website. We encourage you to check them out — our YouTube channel is www.youtube.com/hunterdonlandtrust — and share them with anyone you know who's concerned about protecting Hunterdon County's beautiful places. We plan to use these videos as a springboard to future short-subject films about our preservation and stewardship work in the region.

We want to thank The Watershed Institute for this wonderful opportunity, and encourage everyone to learn more about them at <http://thewatershedinstitute.org/>.

Upcoming Farmers' Market Events

Here are a few highlights of what's coming up at our Farmers' Market. Visit our website for a complete list of events.

September 27 – Our annual apple tasting

October 11 – Barn tour with a special stop at our wagon house

October 25 – Halloween tales with storyteller Carol Simon Levin

November 3 – Celebrate Sandwich Day at the market

November 22 – Our annual holiday market

A Meadow That Hums With Life

Not long ago, Land Trust Steward Tom Thorsen hiked along the trail at the *Quakertown Preserve* and what he discovered was stunning. A meadow near the preserve's entrance buzzed with life. Butterflies flitted about, swallows swooped from the skies above, and dragonflies darted from shrub to shrub.

"I was overjoyed," Thorsen said. "You can really hear the pollinators on the flowers; it's like a cloud of activity humming in this meadow at Quakertown. I love seeing that when going out to one of our preserves."

Pollinator meadows offer numerous benefits: They are terrific for supporting the life of pollinator insects such as bees, butterflies and moths; and are visually stunning.

The big surprise was how native plants took root and thrived upon the several acres of fields where wheat or corn was once grown. Typically, invasive species like autumn olive or mile-a-minute weed devour a field left untended; however, something truly special happened here.

Asters abounded. Goldenrods glimmered. Native grasses and sedges stretched their tender roots forward. Branches of young cherry, oak and maple trees served as landing pads for hungry birds to rest their wings. Virginia creepers, mountain mint and milkweeds all claimed a space among the colorful petals that swayed in the soft summer breeze.

The initial plan for this section of the Quakertown Preserve was to delay mowing the meadow to see what sprouted, then devise an action plan for managing the land responsibly.

"We anticipated having to mow or manage it in some way, but a lot of native flowers, shrubs and trees started popping up. And all the butterflies bees and moths love it."

Thorsen will continue to closely monitor the property, ensuring a balance among the plants, and will selectively remove undesired species. Also, he will make sure the trees don't grow unchecked, which could form a canopy and block the annual flowers from bathing in sun.

"We really want to maintain habitat heterogeneity there," Thorsen said. The variety of habitats there ensures that plants and pollinators will thrive. "We have preserved forests and agricultural land, it's great to have acreage set aside specifically for pollinators," he added.

"When you visit, you can really see the food chain working," Thorsen said.



If You Visit...

The 35-acre Quakertown Preserve is a charming mix of meadows, cultivated fields, cedar and hardwood forests, and is ideal for hiking, birding, horseback riding and family picnics. It's located on Croton Road (Route 579), just south of the intersection with Route 616/Quakertown Road in Franklin Township. Ample parking is available on the preserve. Go to the "Visit a Preserve" section on our website www.hunterdonlandtrust.org to learn more.

HLT's Community Map

Out exploring on one of our preserves and find something interesting you'd like to tell others about? *Well, then share your discovery with others from your smartphone or iPad on our HLT Community Map!*

Developed by Vertices LLC, this mobile application is designed to encourage everyone to share information about the Hunterdon County region's most beautiful natural places. The HLT Community Map spotlights our preserves and efforts to steward properties. You can also learn more about our Farmers' Market and its vendors who grow local food.

"Someone who discovers a rare butterfly at the pollinator meadow on the Quakertown Preserve can snap a photo and upload it to the community map with a comment about the butterfly," noted Executive Director Patricia Ruby. "Someone who visits our Sunday Farmers' Market might discover a vegetable new to them and let others know about it, or share a favorite recipe."

By sharing our discoveries, we merge modern technology with one of the oldest pleasures known to humankind: a walk in the woods. And, perhaps, we reconnect ourselves and others to the land and our rich rural legacy. By discovering more about where we are, we learn more about who we are.

You can find the map and easy instructions on how to add your finds at www.hltcommunitymap.com. The app works with most smartphones and tablets.

From Wagon Shed to Rustic Classroom

It's not your typical wagon house, that's for sure!

As work progresses toward converting the old wagon shed on the Dvoor Farm into a rustic classroom, many interesting discoveries have been made. And, as often happens in historic building projects, a few answers lead to a lot more questions.



Work continues to convert the old wagon shed into a rustic classroom. **Right: Adam Wengryn of Restoration Technologies shows an old bottle found in the "cold storage" section of the old wagon house.**

ture once had windows. You can also see ax marks and nail holes where chair-rail molding probably ran across the wall beneath the window, and nail holes where a door might have been.

He suspects the building was converted to a wagon house in the 1890s, when the Davis family owned the farm. The

Davis's ran the largest dairy operation in Raritan Township where 30 cows produced about 23,000 gallons of milk sold or sent to butter and cheese factories, according to an 1880 census report. The farm also grew hay and corn, and had a three-acre apple orchard.

"The use of Dvoor Farm continues to evolve," said Patricia Ruby, executive director of the Hunterdon Land Trust. "The conversion to a classroom was designed not to alter the aesthetic of the structure as a farm outbuilding, as HLT wishes to reflect the agricultural heritage of Hunterdon County while adapting existing structures for modern use."



Rustic means the classroom will have electricity, a wood stove and lighting, but no other heat, insulation or running water.

This project represents the first building on site dedicated to public use and clearly demonstrates HLT's commitment to fulfill our promise to make the beautiful Dvoor Farm a place where people can connect. We anticipate this classroom becoming the ideal place for organizations to host talks on the environment, gardening and history. Students from local schools might also visit the property to learn about the environment and wetlands on the property. Work on the building will be completed in 2016.

Grants from the New Jersey Historic Trust, the 1772 Foundation, Church & Dwight, Hunterdon County and Flemington Borough funded the project.

Anyone interested in using the space once it's ready can call the Land Trust headquarters at 908-237-4582. We also encourage anyone interested in learning more to sign up for our emailed newsletter or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/hunterdonlandtrust). You can sign up for our newsletter by visiting www.hunterdonlandtrust.org.