



# Hunterdon Land Trust PROTECTING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

# WINTER 2011-2012

# CONSERVATION MATTERS

The Hunterdon Land Trust protects the rural character and natural resources of Hunterdon County.

## preservation

Every acre preserved helps keep drinking water clean, grows local food, gives wildlife a place to live, or people a place to get out and play. Every acre is important, but some acres, like the 313 acres in Horseshoe Bend Park are particularly special.

# VICTORY:



RIGHT PHOTO BY:  
Dwight Hiscana

# HORSESHOE BEND PARK

After ten hard years negotiating with two different land owners and multiple threats that the property would be turned into a housing development, we are thrilled to celebrate an amazing preservation victory.

### INTRODUCING HORSESHOE BEND PARK IN KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP:

The park is huge - 313 acres in all - and one of the most beautiful in western Hunterdon County with rolling hills, lush forested ravines, and sweeping vistas of the Delaware River Valley.

Its high meadows are home to meadowlarks, bobolinks, and redwing blackbirds. Bald eagles and hawks are both believed to nest there. The Copper Creek and other small streams run through the property on their way to the Delaware River.

Kingwood Township Mayor Phillip Lubitz said the property is "a local jewel, and the township is so thankful that we and our partners were able to successfully preserve it. Otherwise this park could have been a 72-home development."

The park is now open for the public to enjoy. Kingwood Township will manage the property, and is putting together a committee to develop a management plan with input from the community.

This haven for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, bird watchers and other nature lovers would never have been saved without a committed community behind it for the past ten years.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT!**

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# Pitching in for Preservation:

THE MANY WAYS PEOPLE MAKE PRESERVATION POSSIBLE

*leave a Legacy*



ELIZABETH GILBERT  
AUTHOR AND HUNTERDON  
LAND TRUST SUPPORTER

**N**ot too long ago, I sat down with my husband and a good estate lawyer, and we drew up a will. Maybe I should put it this way: We drew up at will **at last**, after years of putting it off. Why did we put it off for years? Well, because there are many more fun things to do on a beautiful summer's day than contemplate our eventual deaths – which is why, I suppose, so many people never get around to writing a will at all. But I've been a gardener long enough to know that **everything eventually dies** and since I will surely be no exception, it seemed prudent to make some plans for that universal eventuality.

Here's the thing: On that annoying day when I actually do die, I would like to leave something behind in this world besides my shoebox of college love letters and my dozen-or-so virtually identical black turtleneck sweaters. So I have decided to leave a considerable amount of money in my will to the Hunterdon Land Trust.

## LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

If you'd like to learn how to leave a legacy of a green and healthy Hunterdon County contact Alison Levine at 908.237.4582 or [alison@hunterdonlandtrust.org](mailto:alison@hunterdonlandtrust.org)



This decision was emotionally obvious (what could be a more enduring legacy, after all, than to protect the land, water and wildlife that brought you such joy while you lived?) but it was also a smart move financially. The money I've set aside for the Land Trust all comes out of my IRA's and my retirement accounts. This was on the advice of my estate lawyer, who informed me that retirement money should never be left to a family member, since it can end up getting double-taxed or even triple-taxed when passed along to an individual. But that exact same retirement money can be shunted over to a charitable organization at absolutely no charge.

Which means: Not only will I leave behind a legacy of land stewardship, but that not one dime of my hard-earned retirement money will be wasted in that exchange.

Look, nobody likes to think about death. But we do love to think about the circle of life, and knowing that I'm leaving behind something so important and enduring fills me with comfort and warmth and contentment – now, and indefinitely into the future.



MELANIE & PEPPER  
AT THE HISTORIC DVOR FARM

## Hello everyone!

My name is Melanie and I was fortunate to spend my summer as the Stewardship and Land Management Intern at the Hunterdon Land Trust! I had a really a great time meeting loads of fascinating people and getting to know some of the stunning places that the Land Trust has preserved forever.

This position was a wonderful fit for me since it consolidated my two biggest passions: local ecology and sustainable farming! The two are so intimately connected yet are not always treated as such. At the Hunterdon Land Trust however, these two have been happily married for fifteen years!

Sunday at the market is always a fun time filled with plentiful conversation and sunshine. You know you love your job when you forget you are working.

One of my primary responsibilities was to draft property management plans which involved doing a lot of research.

Luckily for me, much of this research began with getting a feel for these places- so into the fields and the woods I went. I enjoyed doing this research so much that I frequently and happily "worked" on my days off.

An unforgettable moment occurred when I saw a coyote as I was leaving Quakertown Preserve following one of my epic battles with multiflora rose (a thorny alien plant trying to colonize the preserve trails). This is the only time I have actually seen a coyote, previously only having heard their howls in Arizona. I never imagined I would see one in my home state at all, let alone as my singular experience seeing one to date.

The Quakertown Preserve has a magical feel to it and I truly have fallen in love with the place. If you haven't done so already I highly recommend experiencing it for yourself and while you are there be sure to check out the wetland restoration work that was done this past Summer!

Everyone at the land trust, the staff, trustees, farmers, the volunteers and others I have met along the way have been so warm, welcoming, and supportive from my first day forward. I really will miss everyone but will definitely come back to volunteer!

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

One day my high school biology teacher walked into class and announced that we would no longer be studying biology but ecology. The difference? Biology is the study of living things. Ecology is the study of the relationship between living things.

It's a useful distinction and a good way to look at all sorts of things, including, believe it or not, organizations like ours. The Land Trust isn't merely a collection of individuals. It's a community. Almost everything we do involves bringing people together for a common purpose. And that depends upon building relationships.



Take our farmers' market, for example. Every Sunday hundreds of people come to buy fresh, local food from farmers who, in many cases, work on preserved farmland. Those protected farms not only put healthy, delicious food on our tables, they help family farmers stay in business.

Farms, family, food – all connected. Not incidentally, the farmers' market also gives a boost to the local economy, because money spent locally tends to be re-spent locally.

It's a ripple effect, just like in ecology. When a connection is made in one part of the community, things change somewhere else. And where does it all start? With people like you and me and all the folks who are mentioned on the following pages. Over the past 15 years, one contribution at a time, one relationship at a time, we've built the Land Trust community we have today.

Many thanks for your support,  
**John Gattuso**  
President, Board of Trustees

*Protect the places you love,*

SEND YOUR GIFT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

# CARING for SPECIAL PLACES

**S**ome of the most spectacular parkland in New Jersey can be found hugging the banks of the Delaware River as it winds its way through Hunterdon County.

The sweeping views and variety of recreational activities along the river were two of the reasons the National Park Service included the Lower Delaware in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Hunterdon Land Trust, in partnership with the National Park Service, is caring for and helping you make the most of these special places.

The **THOMAS F. BREDEN PRESERVE AT MILFORD BLUFFS** is made up of 264 acres of forests and grassland on top of the red shale cliffs overlooking the Delaware River. Managed by the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, this preserve has hiking trails that wind through the woods and offer peaceful places to sit and appreciate the beauty of the river valley. With the help of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program the land trust has put together a guide for this preserve.



MILFORD BLUFFS

PHOTO BY: Dwight Hiscana



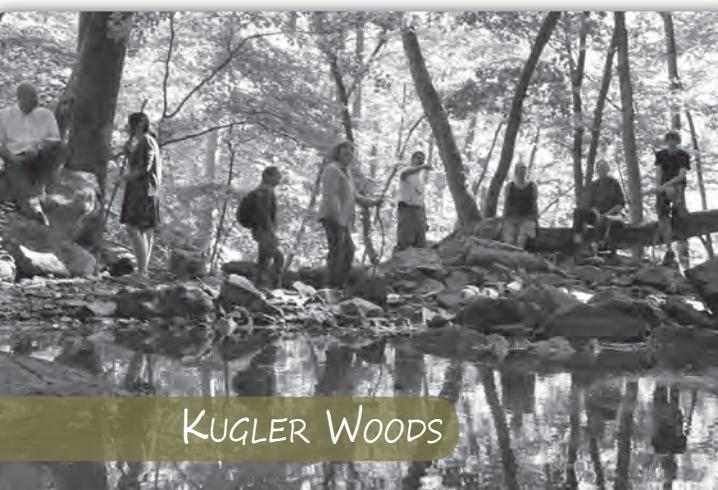
ZEGA-LOCKATONG

A special thank you to the volunteers who helped plant and protect this new forest, including the Farmers' Sportsman Club.



ZEGA-LOCKATONG

We've also created a guide for **THE KUGLER WOODS PRESERVE**, located on the Lower Delaware River roughly halfway between Stockton and Frenchtown. The Kugler Woods Preserve boasts a three-season 10 foot waterfall with many large flat rocks at its foot, offering a perfect place to sit and soak in the beauty of Hunterdon County. The land trust, the National Park Service and the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry (who manages the property) have created a guide to the property showing the trail to the waterfall.



KUGLER WOODS

PHOTO BY: Dwight Hiscana

If you would like to get out and explore either of these amazing places, please visit our website to download the guides, or send us an email with your mailing address to: [info@hunterdonlandtrust.org](mailto:info@hunterdonlandtrust.org) and we'd be happy to send them to you in the mail.

Wetlands are some of the hardest working landscapes around. They help reduce flooding, keeping our basements dry, filter water so we have healthy drinking water and provide places for many threatened and endangered plants and animals to live. Years of development have resulted fewer and fewer acres of wetlands in New Jersey, a trend the Hunterdon Land Trust is working to reverse.

This summer the land trust and Princeton Hydro worked together to restore several acres of wetlands on the **QUAKERTOWN PRESERVE** that had been lost years ago when a man made pond was created. By removing the pond we were able to restore natural wetlands and reconnect the Capoolong Creek to the land. The newly restored wetlands were then replanted with native trees and shrubs, restoring their original function as water filter, flood water absorber and home to water-loving plants and animals.



QUAKERTOWN PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS

# OPENING DAY at the Farmers' Market

In May our popular producers only farmers' market opened for the fifth season. Shoppers were treated to returning favorites as well as new offerings like local plants and herbs. As always, children made a bee-line to the honey sticks!

This year we also added 'Community Corner' a place for everyone to learn about the many ways to help keep Hunterdon County green and healthy.

Highlights from the first year of Community Corner included locally grown bird seed from NJ Audubon, dieticians from Hunterdon Health Care with tips for turning market purchases into healthy meals, tours of the Mine Brook restoration, and market sponsor Basil Bandwagon demonstrating new and exciting ways to prepare the abundance of local greens available at the market.

On opening day we opened up the farmhouse, site of our new offices, to our friends and neighbors. All were welcome to tour the house and learn about its history, including the curious graffiti in the attic, from historian Dennis Bertland and architect Chris Pickell.



Farmers' Market Favorite:  
Honey Sticks



## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

Thanks to everyone who came out in September to celebrate 15 years of protecting the places we all love in Hunterdon County. Birthday hats and cake from Market Roost made the day festive and the photo booth, complete with historical farm props, was a big hit.



# Around the Farm...

Late last year the Hunterdon Land Trust moved into the Historic Dvoor Farm, just in time to celebrate our 15th anniversary.

We've had a wonderful time sharing this local landmark with all of you.

PHOTOS: Jill Dodds



THIS FARM IS FOR THE BIRDS

PHOTOS: Jill Dodds



# ANNOUNCING

the Hunterdon Land Trust

# WINTER MARKET

Your cravings for **FRESH, LOCAL FOOD** don't end in November, and now neither does our Farmers' Market! We'll be holding a monthly market on the third Sunday of the month from **DECEMBER TO APRIL**, so that you don't have to miss out.

Stop by the **HISTORIC DVOOR FARM** on the following days from 11am to 1pm for food from your favorite local farmers featuring:

**BREADS, CHEESE, SELECT PRODUCE,  
WINE, MEATS AND MORE!**

December 18      March 18  
January 15      April 15  
February 19

SIGN UP FOR THE LAND TRUST'S EMAIL LIST AT  
[WWW.HLTA.ORG](http://WWW.HLTA.ORG) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

**PEPPER SAYS:**  
No More waiting all winter  
for the Hunterdon Land Trust  
Farmers' Market to return!



**HUNTERDON LAND TRUST OFFICE DOG PEPPER  
WITH FARMERS' MARKET TREATS**

Newsletter design by Karen Bernier



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