



conservation matters

hunterdon land trust alliance

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a conservation legacy in delaware township

Joint effort by the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance and Hunterdon County results in permanent protection of 102 acres adjoining the Lockatong Creek

We are pleased to celebrate the preservation of a very important property within our planned Lockatong Creek Greenbelt. In the spring of this year, we purchased a 102 acre property from the late Mr. Ralph Frew Peters of McLean, Virginia, formerly of Delaware Township. The property is an important link in our efforts to create a contiguous greenbelt of preserved land along the Lockatong Creek and is directly adjacent to the county's Wescott Preserve and our Zega-Lockatong Preserve.

This preservation project would not have been possible without the commitment of Mr. Peters to sell his property for preservation, and the funding support provided by the Hunterdon County Freeholders through the Hunterdon County Preservation Trust Fund and a grant

to the land trust from the New Jersey Green Acres Program.

The Peters property consists of mature woodlands and open meadows along the Lockatong Creek, providing a diverse habitat for a multitude of plant and animal species. We have agreed to manage the property in partnership with the county, limiting future uses to passive recreation such as hiking and cross country skiing. Plans have begun for expanding "Mimi's Trail" from our Zega Lockatong Preserve through the county's Wescott Preserve to the Peters property, which will more than double the length of the trail.

The celebration of the preservation of this outstanding property is bittersweet for many of the Delaware Township community as sadly, Mr. Peters died shortly after the project was completed. His long time friend and attorney, Robert K. Hornby, reported that despite his terminal illness, Mr. Peters was determined to see this project through to completion, and the property preserved. Mr. Peters had a long standing commitment to land preservation. He permanently protected his ranch located near Helena, Montana with a conservation easement. He had also served on the board of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation for several years and had previously encumbered a portion of his property in Delaware



Township with two voluntary conservation easements. When asked why he chose to preserve his property rather than see it developed, Mr. Peters said, "I felt very deeply that this land should be preserved for future generations. The wildlife and natural beauty of this property is exceptional. I did not want to see it compromised by development."

We are grateful to Mr. Peters for his commitment to conservation in our county. He is exemplary of the landowners who make the choice to provide a legacy for future generations of our state, by protecting the beautiful landscapes and natural resources that sustain us all. 🌲

What kind of legacy do you wish to leave? Contact the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance for information on how you can preserve your land. Or consider the land trust in your will, and leave a legacy of conservation for generations to come. For more information, contact the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance at 908-996-4421

hunterdon land trust alliance receives \$950,000 in funding and national recognition for greenway preservation

Earlier this year, the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Garden State Preservation Trust for farmland preservation and a \$200,000 Green Acres matching grant. We will use \$750,000 to preserve farmland in Holland Township. The \$200,000 Green Acres matching grant will be used for future land acquisition in Hunterdon County. Lisa Jackson, Department of Environmental Protection commissioner, said the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance's work "represents a great step toward achieving our goal of protecting New Jersey's most important recreation and conservation lands and our quality of life."

The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance also received a national honor accompanied by a grant from the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program, which is funded by the Eastman Kodak Company.

The grant will help to implement a management strategy for the Zega-Lockatong Preserve, a contiguous greenbelt of land trust owned properties, located along the Lockatong Creek in Delaware Township. The goal of our project on the Zega-Lockatong Preserve is an improved environment for native plant species as well as for birds and other animals, and an improved quality of the property for the enjoyment and education of trail walkers.

In addition to receiving the grant award, the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance will be showcased as a national model for its innovative efforts to develop a greenway. We are honored to be one of just 44 organizations selected nationwide. The Kodak American Greenways Awards Grants Review Committee consists of conservation experts from around the country. The committee selected grant recipients from a pool of nearly 125 qualified applicants. 🏡

two new tax incentives that could benefit you

Congress recently passed a law to enhance the tax benefits of protecting your land by donating a voluntary conservation easement. If you own land with important natural or historic resources, donating a voluntary conservation easement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love and protect Hunterdon County's natural heritage, while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal tax benefits.

The legislation allows:

- A conservation easement donor to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year;
- Qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income; and
- Donors to carry over deductions for their contribution for as many as 15 years.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals to transfer funds tax-free from an IRA to a charitable organization

Requirements for gifts under the new law include:

- Gifts must be completed by December 31, 2007;

- The IRA owner must be age 70 or older at the time of the distribution;
- Gifts may not exceed \$100,000 per taxpayer per tax year;
- Distributions must be made directly by the IRA trustee to a charitable organization;
- Gifts must be made in a way that would otherwise be fully deductible.

If you qualify to make a charitable gift under the new law, you will not be required to report the IRA distribution as taxable income. However, you will not be entitled to claim an income tax charitable deduction for the gift.

For more information on these tax benefits, consult your tax professional or call the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance at 908-996-4421. 🏡

hunterdon land trust alliance events

10th Anniversary Gala Celebration
Saturday, November 4th, 2006

Over 230 members and supporters joined us on a beautiful, crisp fall day at Duke Farms, a wonderful setting for our celebration! Guests enjoyed tasty treats, fine wines, an exciting silent auction and tours of the historic country manor house. Everyone had a wonderful time, helping us celebrate 10 years of preserving Hunterdon County's special rural landscapes. For more event photos visit www.hlta.org.



Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance Dance for the Barns
September 16, 2006

Live music, a contra dance caller and one of Hunterdon's beautiful barns made for a terrific fundraiser to benefit the Dvoor Farm restorations.



stewardship challenge

What happens to a property after it is preserved? Will it sit forever as a fertile forest or field of graceful wildflowers? Without some help, our fields will become overgrown thickets of invasive briars and our forests will become old age homes for trees. We at the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance take seriously the responsibilities of property ownership. We aim not only to preserve properties of the highest quality, but are committed to work to maintain and improve their ecological benefits such as wildlife habitat, botanical integrity and water and air cleansing capabilities.

Here is the challenge. It takes a lot of people who are fond of fresh air and hard work to maintain a healthy ecosystem. If you are interested in learning by doing, become a stewardship volunteer. Contact our office and we will match you with a project that promises lots of fresh air and an intimate relationship with the earth.



a message from our executive director

Oh, what a year it's been. 2006 proved to be extremely busy for the land trust, fitting for our tenth anniversary year! With your help, we preserved priority properties in Franklin and Delaware Townships, and have more projects in the works than ever before. Our stewardship efforts accelerated with a new hiking trail and plant inventories completed for two of our preserves, providing us important data needed to develop responsible land management strategies. Most importantly, this year gave us a good excuse to celebrate; you have your tenth birthday only once! A trail dedication day, a barn dance, a wine tasting, and an anniversary gala held at the Doris Duke estate rounded out a full social season for us all and gave us opportunity to meet—and thank—our supporters. We also took time this year to plan for the next decade, inviting all of you to participate in a strategic planning workshop. Great ideas surfaced and we are gearing up to implement the very first goal of our strategic plan: to elevate our presence in the county and expand our reach by relocating our office to Flemington, our county's seat. We feel strongly that this move will allow us to reach more of the county, and serve more of our communities. Look for an open house invitation to visit us in our new space at 56 Main Street in 2007!



Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season
Margaret Waldock

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