



Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

56 Main Street • Suite 2E • Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1474

Phone: (908) 237-4582 • Fax: (908) 237-2225

E-mail: info@hlta.org

www.hlta.org

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Contact: Arleen Buchanan
(908) 237-4582
Arleen@hlta.org

HUNTERDON LAND TRUST PRESERVES 42 ACRES IN HIGHLANDS REGION OF HOLLAND TOWNSHIP

Flemington, NJ — The Hunterdon Land Trust began the new decade with the preservation of the 42-acre Saeger farm in Holland Township. With funding from NJ State Green Acres and Phillipsburg Riverview Organization, Hunterdon County, Holland Township and the Victoria Foundation, the Hunterdon Land Trust has created the “Tom Saeger Land Preserve.” Kate Buttolph, Land Acquisition and Stewardship Director for the Land Trust says “This is an excellent example of how a coordinated effort can leverage funding and benefit an entire community.”

The preservation of this environmentally important forest and farm land will protect the purity of the Milford Creek, a tributary which makes its way to the Delaware River. This property is on the Musconetcong Mountain which is identified as a “critical treasure” by the Highlands Coalition.

The property has been in the Saeger family for generations and the nieces and nephews of Thomas A. Saeger honored his wishes by preserving the land in perpetuity. The property consists of farm fields, forested areas, slopes and an impressive scenic vista. “It will

present opportunities for passive recreation, bird watching, hiking and cross-country skiing” said Margaret Waldock, the executive director of the Land Trust. The property adjoins the Scopetto property which was recently preserved by Holland Township and Hunterdon County with the help of Hunterdon Land Trust and the adjoining Kolonia property preserved last year. Saeger brings the total contiguous acres of land open for passive public recreation to 150+.

Thomas Saeger lived in the Ironbound section of Newark, NJ for most of his life, running the family business, a tavern called Murphy’s with his mother, after his father’s death. He frequently visited family in Hunterdon County and after serving in WWII he purchased 113 acres in the early 1950s. Saeger loved the area and annually brought busloads of city children out to the property to enjoy the fresh air and country living. His nieces and nephews have fond memories of swimming and fishing in the pond, picnicking on the hill and walking in the woods and camping at the pavilion area, and rides in his Willy’s Jeep.. “We are very pleased to preserve this property that our uncle enjoyed and tended to for so many years,” said MaryAnn Saeger.

Funding for this project was a collaborative effort. Phillipsburg Riverview Organization provided Green Acres funding, HLTA applied for a county nonprofit grant, Holland Township provided funding and the Victoria Foundation closed the final gap with a grant to Hunterdon Land Trust. Craig Drinkard of the Victoria Foundation says he was persuaded to partner with HLTA in this preservation after walking the property with Margaret Waldock and Tracey Costanzo, seeing the beauty of the land and the view, and understanding how the Saeger Preserve fits into the bigger picture of preserved open space in Holland Township. The Victoria Foundation has also worked with New Jersey

Conservation Foundation and The Nature Conservancy to protect similar natural resources in perpetuity in the Highlands region of New Jersey.

To support the Hunterdon Land Trust or for more information about preserved properties, please visit our website at www.hunterdonlandtrust.com.

The Hunterdon Land Trust is Hunterdon County, New Jersey's only countywide land trust. Incorporated as a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization in 1996, the land trust is committed to preserving and protecting the rural landscapes and natural resources of Hunterdon County. To learn more about the Hunterdon Land Trust, please visit their website at www.hlta.org.

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