

# GREENWAYS

Newsletter of  
D&R Greenway Land Trust  
Volume 30, Number 1  
Spring 2021

## Land Preservation Update

Since 1989, D&R Greenway has permanently preserved 315 properties, 21,196 acres. According to the American Planning Association standards, that represents 105,980 fewer daily car trips on our roads. Land preservation is part of the solution to climate change.

*Connecting ~ People ~ Wildlife ~ Community ~ Land*

## A Family's Dream Comes True

### 50-acre Sycamore Creek Farm is Permanently Preserved

**D**&R Greenway Land Trust closed 2020 with permanent preservation of Sycamore Creek Farm in Hopewell, owned by Tony and Patti Cifelli. A forest rich in majestic trees, a stone wall and bountiful tufts of Christmas fern adjoin the fifty acres of farm fields, all preserved in perpetuity.

Tony and Patti Cifelli raised their two children on this land, instilling care for the land through hard work on the farm. Patti and her daughter, Sara, rode and trained horses, competing in equestrian competitions. Their son, Pete remembers their sledding hill as an important childhood mainstay for family and neighbors. Pete will carry on the tradition of caring for Sycamore Creek Farm, having purchased it from his parents. Their circa 1830 home and venerable barns have been renovated by Pete's father, Tony, an expert in historic property management. A conservation easement ensures the land will remain a green family legacy.

Sycamore Creek Farm is aptly named for the vast open quality of the Cifelli fields, and remarkable beauty of the shady stream valley. Jacobs Creek flows from Sycamore Creek Farm southwest to the Delaware River. Protecting water quality is the core of D&R Greenway's founding mission. The Delaware River watershed provides drinking water for 15 million people. This preserve will provide trail linkages to other D&R Greenway sites, protecting habitat, wildlife and the area's agricultural heritage.

Future hikers will have the opportunity to walk among thick stands of willow, alongside mature sycamores, sumac, red maples, red cedars, black walnut, mature oak and stately beech trees. Trails, yet to be built, will enable a linkage to the Jacobs Creek trail to the south. Lisa Wolff, Executive Director of FoHVOS, said, "This property abuts our Jacobs Creek Trail. We are very



### Inside

- 2020 Donors, Volunteers and Business Partners
- A Legacy of Family Lands Preserved
- **Save the Date:**  
**May 16, 2021, 4:30–5:30 p.m.**  
Greenway Gala (virtual)  
and the Donald B. Jones  
Conservation Award

excited to work with D&R Greenway to extend access to such beautiful features to the public."

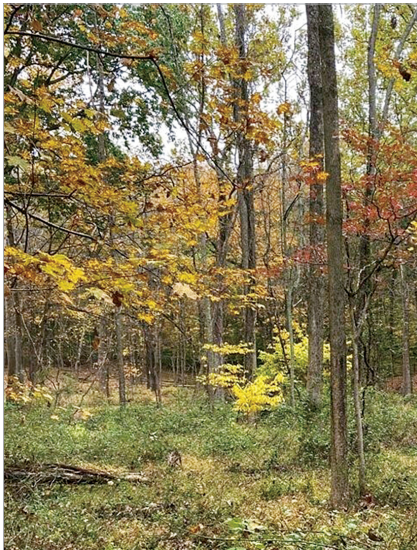
Because of its high forest quality, the property contains habitat that is critical for salamanders, frogs, rare wood turtles and dragonflies. Birds that may be observed here  
*Continued on page 2*



*A young Pete Cifelli with a foal and mare on the family property that he would come to own as preserved land.*

## Cover story

Continued from page 1



Woodland habitat on Sycamore Creek Farm.

include New Jersey Endangered and Threatened species, such as barred owl, worm-eating warbler, wood thrush, veery, hooded warbler, Kentucky warbler, Canada warbler and Cooper's hawk.

Preservation funding was provided by public partners including New Jersey Green Acres grants to D&R Greenway and FoHVOS, Mercer County, and Hopewell Township. D&R Greenway contributed funds from a private donor, Gene Gladston who made a bequest to D&R Greenway's Revolving Land for Life Fund. Gene's life's passion was protecting land, especially important bird habitat.

The purchase of a conservation easement by D&R Greenway and partners enabled the land to stay in the Cifelli family, continuing as a working farm with permanent protection. Danielle Dobisch, D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation, orchestrated this project and noted, "Preserving land is about building relationships. Patti and Tony Cifelli really love their farm and wanted to do the best by it, to make sure the open land was there for the future. Having their son, Pete, purchase the preserved farm, just made the process so much sweeter. I'm thankful to have worked with Patti and Tony to see their dream come to fruition: their farm preserved, forever." 🍂

## The 30X30 Pledge

### *An Ambitious Commitment to Saving our Land and Water*

Following in a bipartisan presidential tradition that began with President Abraham Lincoln in 1864 protecting Yosemite lands, newly inaugurated President Joseph R. Biden on January 27th signed an executive order that sets an ambitious goal of preserving 30% of the land and waters of the United States by the year 2030.

Known as the 30X30 pledge, the order is a potential watershed event for nonprofit land trusts, including D&R Greenway.

Andrew Bowman is the President & CEO of the Land Trust Alliance, our national advocacy organization. He recently described the significance of the 30X30 pledge:

*"This bold "30X30" vision is firmly rooted in science, given that protected land is key to a healthy and secure future for all Americans. It provides pure drinking water, healthy food, clean air, habitat for wildlife, and places for people to reflect, recreate, hunt and fish. Conserved land also provides protection from natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, and absorbs and keeps carbon from the Earth's atmosphere."*

On behalf of the 1,000 land trusts that are part of the Land Trust Alliance, Bowman has committed to the preservation of 60 million additional acres by the end of this decade. Thanks to the 30X30 pledge, the next nine years promise to be the most exciting period in the history of the land trust movement!

Linda Mead, D&R Greenway's President & CEO adds, "New Jersey is ahead already, as the first state to have initiated public open space funding in 1961. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the New Jersey Green Acres program. D&R Greenway is poised, thanks to our Revolving Land Fund and our partnership with our public and private partners, to move quickly to save land. Preserving places along the Delaware and Millstone rivers, and the Delaware & Raritan Canal and its tributary streams, is our founding mission."

We look forward to achieving great things in partnership with our loyal volunteers and donors. Look for updates and ways you can be a part of this movement — coming soon. 🍂



The vastness of farmland on the Cifelli family property.

# The Taplin Circle

The Taplin Circle was introduced seventeen years ago in celebration of D&R Greenway's 15th Anniversary. It honors the philanthropic vision of Frank Taplin and his wife Peg, whose generous leadership led to preservation of two signature Princeton landscapes: The Institute Woods and Coventry Farm including Farm View Fields, a public

park that inspires local youth. Our dedicated Taplin Circle members demonstrate their love of preservation by contributing \$1,000 or more to D&R Greenway's annual fund. Their consistent, significant support has enabled and sustained D&R Greenway's vision, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

## Donations Received January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

### TAPLIN CIRCLE ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES (\$40,000+)

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Barbara Delafield  
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation  
Eugene Gladston (Wendy)  
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+ First time donor



Note: This annual report reflects giving from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. In preparing this issue of our newsletter, D&R Greenway Land Trust has attempted to recognize all those who contributed so generously. We apologize for any errors and request that corrections be brought to our attention by calling 609-578-7470 or [info@drgreenway.org](mailto:info@drgreenway.org).

## Steadfast Stewards

These Steadfast Stewards are on-going advocates of D&R Greenway's mission to preserve and care for land and inspire a conservation ethic, now and forever. Their continued annual contributions show they have confidence in our work and support the direction we are

taking. We especially want to thank those who joined us in our early years for establishing what has become one of the leading land trusts in New Jersey and the country — D&R Greenway Land Trust.

### *Donations Received January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020*

#### FOUNDING DONORS FOR 30+ YEARS

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5+ YEARS**

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Gary and Deborah Gartenberg  
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Ritchie and Pamela Geisel  
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*Continued on page 18*

## The Evergreen Circle

A planned gift through a bequest, charitable annuity or remainder trust, is a contribution to the future that reflects the donor's beliefs and values. People who make a planned gift to D&R Greenway are recognized as members of our Evergreen Circle. These visionaries have thought about the lasting impact they wish to make on their community's

quality of life long after they are gone. 2020 was a year when legacies came to fruition, with bequests that enabled preservation of critical lands. We remember and are grateful to those who have shared their belief in our mission, now and forever. To join in this legacy, contact D&R Greenway President & CEO, Linda Mead at 609-578-7470.

Anonymous (1)  
Brian Breuel \*  
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Virginia Craig \*  
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Allegra and Carin Algava

### IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE BARONE KOVACS

Penelope Stout

### IN MEMORY OF HANK AND JANE BISCO

Jan Bisco-Werner

### IN MEMORY OF BRIAN BREUEL

Janet Madison

### IN MEMORY OF GRANDMA "BEE" BRIENZA

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### IN MEMORY OF BERNIE AND JOY CARNAS

Suzanne Nash

### IN MEMORY OF ANN COHN

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### IN MEMORY OF BARBARA DELAFIELD

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### IN MEMORY OF GENE GLADSTON

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Deb Kilmer

Diana and Derek Lidow

Linda and Stephen Mead

William Schowalter

James and Judy Webb

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### IN MEMORY OF HENRY S. HORN

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### IN MEMORY OF EDIE HOWARD

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Susan Anvy

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### IN MEMORY OF TERRY KOCIS WAGNER

Gary and Nancy Zwick,

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family and Vic and Brett

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### IN HONOR OF ERIC, ANDREA AND AMELIA ANDERSON

The Anderson Family

### IN HONOR OF BORDENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, D&R GREENWAY, CITY OF BORDENTOWN

Steven Lederman and

Bonnie Goldman

### IN HONOR OF DEB BROCKWAY

Sharon Brockway

### IN HONOR OF D&R GREENWAY STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS

James Degnen

Nancy and Flip Faherty

Diana and Derek Lidow

### IN HONOR OF DAVID DOBKIN

Carol Brown

### IN HONOR OF CAROLYN EDELMANN

Karen Linder and

Michael Brill

Grace Sinden

### IN HONOR OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

Earth Care Team

### IN HONOR OF RUTH GIBSON

Michele Mariano

### IN HONOR OF EUGENE AND WENDY GLADSTON

Benjamin Bartos

### IN HONOR OF KAREN AND DAVID HOLMES

Tonya Parnak

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### IN HONOR OF ABRAHAM TENENBAUM

Bernard Tenenbaum

### IN HONOR OF BOB VAUCHER

Rebecca Montville

### IN HONOR OF ELLEN AND BRANN WRY

Charles Toal

# 2020 Volunteers

Thank you to D&R Greenway's dedicated volunteers who played a significant role in moving our organization forward during a very difficult year. Their collaborative contributions have continued to build community and are invaluable to the growth and success of D&R Greenway.

**EXPERT BIRDERS:** D&R Greenway is fortunate to partner with expert birders from the Washington Crossing Audubon Society who regularly identify and count bird species on our preserves. This data is submitted to eBird.org at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a rich data source for basic information on bird abundance and distribution.

**PLANT NURSERY:** Volunteers learn about, grow and care for native plants. Their valuable participation with watering and caring for nursery plants, and helping with the native plant sales, raises funds to preserve and steward more land.

**STEWARDSHIP AND TRAIL STEWARDS:** These heroes multiply the work of our staff, enjoying community spirit as they ensure that this important work gets done. They remove invasive species, restore habitats with native plants and maintain trails. In response to challenging conditions in 2020, family groups and socially-distanced and masked volunteers helped us plant 1,700 trees. We initiated a new Trail Stewards program in 2020 as we kept our open space open.

**NEW JERSEY TRAILS:** From October to May, led by former Board Chair, Alan Hershey, volunteers of all ages move

boulders, clear brush, create stream crossings, and build bridges to create welcoming trail experiences—special places for people to connect with the land—www.njtrails.org.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS AND GRAPHIC DESIGN:** A talented group of photographers and designers dedicate their time and expertise to contribute to D&R Greenway's public outreach, website, newsletter and interactive trail Apps.

**ST. MICHAELS FARM PRESERVE VICTORY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you to our gardeners who took time from their own gardening schedules to plant, water, weed and collect produce from seven charity garden plots dedicated to community food security. A special thank you to Aunt Chubby's Luncheonette in Hopewell who distributed the produce to those in need.

**WILLING HANDS VOLUNTEERS:** Our volunteer crew really stepped up in to 2020 to turn our fundraisers into truly successful events! While remaining socially distanced, they helped process mailings, assembled goody bags, directed traffic at our Masquerade Parade and shared the meaning of "I Love Land" with their parade floats as they continued to spread the good word about D&R Greenway.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with D&R Greenway Land Trust, please e-mail us at [info@drgreenway.org](mailto:info@drgreenway.org) or visit [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org). Also like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

## EXPERT BIRDERS

Juanita Hummel  
Fairfax Hunter  
Sharyn Magee  
Hannah Suthers

## NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

Kathy Brody  
Ann Church  
Judy Colburn  
Mimi Mead Hagen  
Juanita Hummel  
John Hunt  
Gretchen Oberfranc  
Cynthia Sage  
Ann Soos

Kelly Sullivan  
Ann Vaurio

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John Aglitz  
Jim Amon  
Marissa and Linda Balto  
Deb Brockway  
Ken Carr  
Peter Dawson  
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Rich DuFort  
Tom and Lynn Ebeling  
Andrea Fereshthch

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Madeleine Freundlich  
Ryan Hartpence  
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Bob Heil  
Jack Gallagher  
Chris and Haven Krupa  
Wendy Kvalheim and family  
Tom Lederer  
Kathy Manet  
Susan Michniewski  
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Sreei Nair  
Grethen Oberfranc

Bayo Olukuton  
Stewart Palilonis  
George Point  
Toni and Glorianne Robbi  
Lynn Robbins  
Mike Rogers  
Beth Rabbitt  
Carl Seiden  
Marna Seltzer  
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Ian Snyder  
Lisa Stolzer  
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Roger Thorpe  
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Robin Schore  
Joanna Schneider  
Noah Sun  
Andrew Thornton  
Kurt Vollherbst  
Megan Wang  
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Mark Yearick

## POINT BREEZE VOLUNTEERS

Bordentown Historical Society  
Tim Price

## PHOTOGRAPHERS AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

David Anderson  
Philip S. Getty  
Laura Hawkins  
Brenda Jones  
Mahlon and Heather Lovett  
Mary M. Michaels  
Tasha O'Neill  
Alanna Jamieson Papetti  
Harold Quinn  
Kelly Sullivan

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Bob and Stephanie Harris, Advisors  
Ken Carr

Judy Colburn  
Burgess Ekman  
Kathy Fedorko  
Kerry Goodwin  
Paula Hearle  
Lois Kotkoskie  
Steve Levine  
Joan Marr  
Sue Meaney  
Barbara Merry  
Cynthia O'Connor  
Jennifer Sizoo and Family

## WILLING HANDS VOLUNTEERS

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Julia Benedict  
Joyce Copleman  
Carol Hanson  
Margee Harper  
Alan Hershey  
Erica Johanson  
Wendy Kvalheim  
Fay Lachman  
Phyllis Marchand  
Sue Meaney  
Valerie Meluskey  
Tasha O'Neill  
Jay and Sarah Ottinger  
Doris Richards  
Kelly Sullivan  
Ted Thomas



"Tools of the Trade" used by our volunteers. (photo by Tasha O'Neill)





# D&R Greenway Land Trust Announces New Board Leadership

As D&R Greenway celebrates its 315th property preserved since its founding in 1989, **Peter J. Dawson** of Pennington, owner of Leigh Visual Imaging Solutions, enthusiastically takes the reins as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Peter has been involved with D&R Greenway since the year 2000, joining the Board of Trustees in 2013. A businessman, Peter recognizes the economic and strategic value of preserving land, *“We have all heard the expression, ‘Land—they’re not making it anymore’... which is why it is so important to work strategically to preserve acres critical to the protection of the overall environment, emphasizing clean water and, of course, establishing greenways.”*



Peter Dawson with wife Kristin (l) and Linda Mead at a Trails to Table Walk at Kunkle Park in Pennington.

Peter takes over from Co-Chairs **Wendy Kvalheim** of Princeton and **Christopher DeGrezia, Esq.** of Montgomery who completed their terms after a collective 18 years of volunteer service and leadership. Both former Chairs will continue to use their passion to assist D&R Greenway’s mission.

Thanks also to retiring trustee, **Kristin Appelget** of Princeton University, who remains on our Community Conservation Committee.

**Michael R. Bramnick, Esq.**, Senior Vice President of NRG Energy, joins the land trust’s Executive Committee as Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees. He brings legal skills and

knowledge from his position as Chief of Staff & Chief Compliance Officer of a \$13 billion, Fortune 250 integrated energy company, informing D&R Greenway’s efforts to mitigate climate change through land preservation and stewardship.



A resident of West Windsor, Michael asserts, *“D&R Greenway is important to me because it acts with urgency and integrity to preserve fragile, even dwindling natural resources.”*

Three counties — Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset — and six communities are represented in the residences of D&R Greenway’s new officers.

Rounding out the land trust’s officers are Vice Chair **Adrian Huns** of East Amwell, Co-Vice Chair **James Fiorentino** of Flemington, Treasurer **Michael Kunst** of Franklin Twp. in Somerset County, and Secretary **Johan Firmenich** of Montgomery.

Over the past year, D&R Greenway’s leadership was expanded with seven new trustees:

**Heather Eshelman McCusker, Esq.** serves as Co-Head, NJ Estates and Trusts Practice, at Stevens & Lee; concentrating her practice in wealth planning and estates. “The beauty of nature and its wildlife” have been crucial to Heather since her own childhood. Her daughter’s increasing skill at naming birds confirms to Heather and her husband that,



*“We are on the right track. I am truly inspired by the natural resource and land preservation work that D&R Greenway Land Trust has accomplished. I look forward to advancing the organization’s mission, furthering its impact and promoting a conservation legacy.”*

**Alanna Jamieson Papetti**, Assistant Director of Communications, NJ Board of Public Utilities, works closely with its leadership and agency heads. Interacting with press and social media, Alanna has brought fresh ideas for reaching central New Jersey residents with D&R Greenway messaging.



She joined the Board because of the land trust’s *“diligent efforts to make nature in all seasons, and fresh local food, accessible to all. The organization’s thoughtful work on ensuring equity in environmentalism is what I think is truly powerful.”*

**William C. Martin**, Chairman and Chief Investment Officer, Raging Capital Management, remembers childhood in describing his reasons for serving D&R Greenway Land Trust:

*“I was lucky enough to grow up traversing the rural woods, streams and landscapes of Central New Jersey. Thanks to the great work of D&R Greenway, these increasingly endangered tracts are being preserved forever, enabling my children (and hopefully their children)—and others like them—to enjoy and benefit from the same natural pursuits that I did.”*



Bill and his wife Geniva are long-time Taplin Circle donors to D&R Greenway Land Trust. Bill’s parents live in Monmouth County near land preserved by D&R Greenway.

*Continued on page 18*

## Preservation of Point Breeze Gains International Interest

Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte, former king of Spain and of Naples, whose older brother was the former Emperor of France, came to Bordentown, New Jersey, in 1815, purchasing land from diplomat Stephen Sayre. The land is sited high upon the Bordentown Bluffs, overlooking extensive marshlands and the confluence of Crosswicks Creek and the Delaware River. This location, between New York and Philadelphia, was documented in many paintings of the era that can be seen today in museums. The site provided easy access to Philadelphia by boat. Remnants of

offers to help—from fundraising to organizing to gardening.

In a matter of days after *The New York Times*' report, this preservation story was taken up by the *Times of London*, and that city's *Daily Mail* who led its article with "New Jersey is known for many things: stunning beaches, luscious tomatoes, Bruce Springsteen and Atlantic City. Now, one small town is working to make the state synonymous with something else—European royalty." The story was also covered in Great Britain by *Royal Central*, the most popular independent

the estate. It is said that Joseph Bonaparte brought asparagus to the United States, grown here for the first time in the country. The property's preservation was a dream of many, including Bordentown Mayor James E. Lynch, Jr., the recipient of D&R Greenway's 2021 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award. The Mayor's commitment to move the municipal building and police station to the property ensured preservation, in partnership with D&R Greenway and the State of New Jersey's Green Acres program, which celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2021. December 18, 2020, the date of the property's preservation, has been added to the history books.



*The New York Times* interviews (l) Peter Tucci, Linda Mead and Mayor James E. Lynch, Jr.

tunnels, leading from Bonaparte's mansions to the waterways, can still be found on the property.

Early in January, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, sent a reporter to Point Breeze and published a comprehensive article on the preservation process, emphasizing future plans for this expansive and beautifully situated land.

The property was the focus of a feature article in *The New York Times* which prompted nationwide and international attention.

"Ever since *The New York Times* published its feature article on our preservation of Joseph Bonaparte's estate in Bordentown, we have heard from people all over the country," says D&R Greenway President and CEO Linda Mead. "People wrote to us about chairs and of china; of their own Bonaparte connections; and with

source for royal news on the web.

The premiere Spanish news service, EFE, visited Point Breeze in late February to film a video, interviewing Linda Mead and D&R Greenway trustee Peter Tucci who owns the largest collection of Joseph Bonaparte memorabilia in the world. Viewing the full collection in Peter's home was a treat for Spanish correspondent Jorge Fuentelsaz Franganillo, who was in awe seeing key components of his country's history first-hand. The fourth largest news service in the world, EFE will be sharing this story with the Spanish-speaking community worldwide.

As part of the overall property's preservation, D&R Greenway Land Trust purchased the only remaining structure from Bonaparte's estate, the Gardener's house. Extensive gardens grew food and provided beauty for

"There's a real opportunity to celebrate the history and at the same time make this very relevant to people today who want to visit and walk on the trails, learn about the land and possibly even garden on the property," says Linda Mead. She points out that in addition to featuring the Bonaparte era, exhibits will educate the public about the ecology and land-use history, dating back to Native Americans whose agrarian lifestyle was supported by the Delaware River and its tributaries. The historic tract is the southern gateway to the Abbott Marshlands, which stretch between Bordentown and Trenton. "Once it's open to the public as a park, Point Breeze will become a destination of history lovers, ecologists, archeologists, birders and artists—just as it was when Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte lived here." 🌿

## *Bordentown Mayor James E. Lynch, Jr. to Receive 2021 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award at Greenway Gala on May 16*

Where can you find Two Kings, Four Nations, and One Mayor?

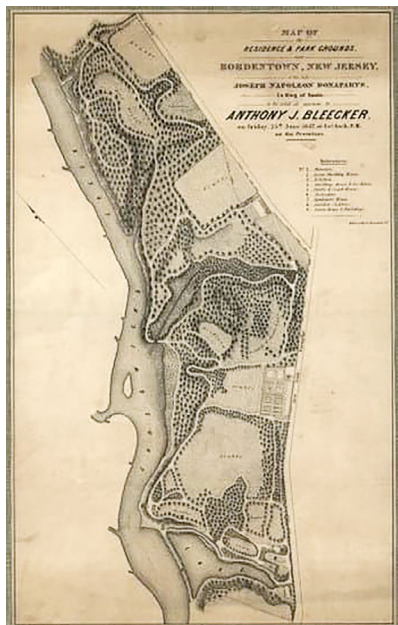
In Bordentown, New Jersey, on a property historically known as Point Breeze!

Following a year that has been difficult for everyone, we are thrilled to announce the return of our Greenway Gala — this year highlighting our 315th preserved property, with surprise speakers you will not want to miss.

Bordentown Mayor James E. Lynch, Jr. will be presented with D&R Greenway’s premiere annual award — the 2021 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award — on Sunday, May 16, from 4:30–5:30 pm.

Private tours, special art and garden talks and an archeological dig are among the unique experiences that will be available to our sponsors this summer and fall, in an outdoor location following CDC guidelines.

A leader who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community, Mayor Lynch and the City of Bordentown have collaborated with us in meaningful ways for many years. The Mayor’s commitment was critical to the preservation of “Point Breeze” — the former estate of Joseph Napoleon



*Historic map shows land, houses and gardens of Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte.*



*Linda Mead, Mayor Lynch and Joel Dowsben with interpretive signage at Bordentown Beach.*

Bonaparte. His enthusiastic support of D&R Greenway’s kayak education program, based at Bordentown Beach, was fueled by his lifelong stewardship of the Delaware River.

“After all my years in Bordentown, preserving this special land feels like a wonderful victory,” Mayor Lynch said. “To be honored by D&R Greenway with this meaningful award makes it feel all that more real.”

“Mayor Lynch joins a distinguished list of honorees that hold a special place in the history and future of D&R Greenway,” says President & CEO Linda Mead, who will present the award along with Board Chair Peter Dawson. “When we walk along the Bordentown bluffs, we are taken back to other eras, remembering Native Americans who once lived along the Delaware River on this land that became home to the former King of Spain. Join us on May 16 and walk in the footsteps of history with Mayor Lynch and D&R Greenway.”



*Mayor Lynch welcomed Delaware River Sojourn participants to Bordentown Beach in 2018.*

## A Green Legacy

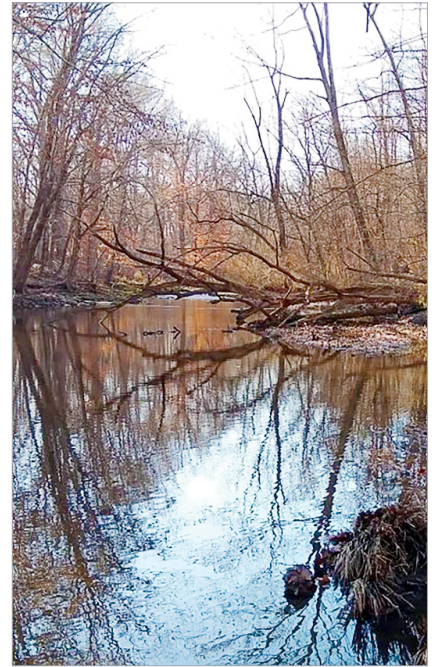
# Ten Wooded Acres Preserved in Loving Memory

During the 2020 holiday season, D&R Greenway completed preservation of ten bucolic acres in Hopewell, New Jersey. Property owner, Nutan Singh, achieved this milestone in memory of her husband, Anil Singh who loved caring for his land. In his large garden, in season, asters, goldenrod, sedges, bottlebrush and rushes thrive. The Stony Brook leisurely meanders through native woodlands on this unique property. The conservation and public access easement now on this land permanently protects 770 feet along the brook. A tributary flowing into the Stony Brook protects another 720 feet of waterway. Funding for this new acquisition was provided by Mercer County and D&R Greenway's *Revolving Land for Life Fund*.

Landowner Nutan Singh, wrote to Linda Mead, D&R Greenway's President & CEO, "As I have been working with you and your team for the last year, I am truly amazed at

your passion and drive to carry out this noble work of preserving land. Similarly, with my husband Anil, I witnessed the same passion for land and natural beauty. He came from India to pursue his dream. With an educational background in agricultural and mechanical engineering, his graduate research at Rutgers focused on blueberries, from farming to harvesting. After moving to this property, he found his true calling, that of living on a farm. Anil's obsession with farms and farm machinery was evident to all of our family and friends. We were harvesting potatoes, green beans, okra, bitter melon, and hot peppers for years in the garden, while also farming winter wheat and rye.

Needless to say, he was living blissfully on this property and spent most of his time outside savoring the natural beauty and wildlife it offers. Many times, he would say he does not need to live in a house, he can just put a tent on the bank of Stony Brook



(now part of the Preserve) and live there forever! Again, thank you to D&R Greenway for making this memorable for my family, friends and community."

The Singh woodlands include habitat for migratory birds and New Jersey endangered species, such as barred owl, Cooper's hawk, wood thrush, worm-eating warbler, Kentucky warbler, and wood turtle. This forest is composed of hickory, red maple, oak, tulip poplar, American beech and sycamore, as well as fragrant spicebush, first to burst with tiny chartreuse bloom in spring. This shrub is essential to the life cycle of the spicebush swallowtail butterfly.

Linda Mead, who lives D&R Greenway's mission—*Preserving and caring for land; inspiring a conservation ethic, now and forever*—said, "We are delighted to announce this vital connection to favorite nearby D&R Greenway preserved lands. Woods Brook Preserve adjoins on the south; Olcott Preserve is across Stony Brook Road; and our popular Cedar Ridge Preserve is just across Route 518 from this property. For the health of the river and the lives of essential native species of plants and animals, we are grateful to Nutan Singh for her determination and generosity throughout these negotiations. She has truly created a green legacy." 🌿



## Partners in Preservation

D&R Greenway's Partners in Preservation realize preserved open space is good for us, providing cleaner water to drink, fresher air to breathe and fresh, local foods to eat. They know spending time outdoors in nature has a positive effect on health: reducing stress, lowering disease risks, and providing opportunities to strengthen muscles and improve well-being. Perhaps the most significant benefit of preserving natural and agricultural landscapes is that

it supports our community by providing, quite literally, "common ground"—a shared continuity of experience with the land that extends across generations. We thank our partners in preservation and extend a warm welcome to our first-time donors. We are also grateful to the families and individuals who have provided steady support for D&R Greenway's work through the years—see page 4 for acknowledgment of our Steadfast Stewards.

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*Continued on page 14*



Family volunteers assisted with planting trees in 2020 to provide fresh air and healthy biodiversity. (photo: Tasha O'Neill)

Continued from page 13

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Protection of water quality is D&R Greenway's founding mission.  
(photo by Tasha O'Neill)



Did You Know? Marquee messages about the Delaware River, using student art and created by Community Conservation Fellow Maria Stahl, were displayed at Trenton's Baseball Stadium in 2020.

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An owl "staycations" at Cider Mill Grassland Preserve.  
 (photo: Harold Quinn)

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## Celebrating Legacy

This past year has been like no other in our memories. We have felt overwhelming sadness while we celebrated the lives of those whose generous spirit has contributed to D&R Greenway's Legacy of Land.

We want to take a moment to recognize these remarkable people we have lost over the past year, all of whom have played a role in our success. Some preserved their land. Others provided generous financial support. Many shared their talents and passion. Several left bequests that will provide gifts into the future. A few have been remembered in special places that bear their name. We are grateful to all of them for caring about the future of our green spaces in New Jersey.

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D&R Greenway would like to thank our in-kind donors who have given their time and talent so generously.

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### Fun Fact

**1,584**  
The number of potatoes, stretched in a line across an acre.

**33,574,464**  
Potatoes needed to stretch across the 21,196 acres

protected by D&R Greenway. That's a lot of potato salad!



*In 2020, D&R Greenway volunteers harvested 225 lbs. of potatoes from our charity gardens.*

## Corporate, Foundation & Non-Profit Donors

*Donations Received January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020*

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Continued from page 6

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Victory Gardeners  
for your photos that  
captured a successful  
gardening season!

## Trustees

Continued from page 9

**Patrick L. McDonnell**, syndicated cartoonist, author and playwright, could be said to have joined the D&R Greenway team because it has saved over 21,000 acres of habitat since its 1989 founding.

*"In my comic strip, MUTTS, I try to see the world through the eyes of animals. It is my firm belief that there is nothing more important than saving and preserving the natural world.*

*D&R Greenway is a model for what can be done to keep our planet green. We are blessed by and grateful for their vital work as are all our fellow beings."*



Patrick is best known for his daily comic strip, *Mutts*, syndicated since 1994. His work appears in more than 700 newspapers in 20 countries. Peanuts creator Charles Schulz deemed *Mutts* "one of the best comic strips of all time."

In 2009 McDonnell collaborated with author Eckhart Tolle to create the philosophical book, *Guardians of Being*, on nature and the present moment. In 2012, McDonnell's children's book, *Me...Jane*, based on Jane Goodall's childhood, earned the prestigious Caldecott Honor. The story was later staged as a children's musical for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. For 18 years, Patrick served on the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of the United States. In addition to D&R Greenway Land Trust, Patrick is a trustee of The Fund for Animals and The Charles M. Schulz Museum.

**Laura Napoli**, retired environmental scientist, ExxonMobil, has devoted her professional life to land restoration, ecosystem services and land preservation transactions. As a corporate member of the national Land Trust Alliance, Laura facilitated conservation of corporate land throughout the United States. She has the know-how to protect land and the motivation, *"There is nothing that can feed the soul, calm the mind and restore the spirit as Nature can. No land?—no Nature! Save it and we save ourselves and every living creature."*



**Ian Snyder**, in his mid-twenties, is the youngest member of D&R Greenway's Board. A former Princeton resident who now lives in New York City and works for J.P. Morgan, he is passionate about the impact D&R Greenway is making on our planet. *"A land trust focused on preservation is most important, given the accelerating and consequential pace of global climate change.*

*D&R Greenway provides me the perfect opportunity to have a direct impact on this exact issue, in this town where I grew up and which I love dearly.*

*D&R Greenway holds a special place in my heart through its construction and maintenance of the Iron Mike Trail, [across Rosedale Road from the land trust's offices], honoring the passing of my father."* Annually, Ian brings together a group of his former high school and college friends to care for the Iron Mike Trail.



**Peter Tucci**, Esq., who owns the largest collection of Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte memorabilia in the world, was the impetus for D&R Greenway's recent preservation of the world renowned Point Breeze in Bordentown. Peter is a *partner at Fox Rothschild*, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Pennington School. Key treasures from his Joseph Bonaparte collection will be exhibited in the

museum to be created in the Gardener's House on land once owned by the former King of Spain and of Naples. The *New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *London Times* and *London Daily Mail* recently featured the completion of this land's preservation, a partnership of the New Jersey Green Acres Program, the City of Bordentown and D&R Greenway Land Trust. Peter is a resident of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He was awarded the title of Chevalier (Knight) of the French Legion of Honor by President of the Republic of France, Jacques Chirac. 🐾



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Thank you to our Business Partners in Preservation who, through their support, demonstrate their respect and appreciation for natural lands, clean water and open space. Their investment in D&R Greenway is personal to them, as they are aware how it enhances the quality of life

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D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to preserving and caring for land, and inspiring a conservation ethic.

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## Thank You for Your Partnership!

Since March of 2020, our staff has worked remotely with occasional access to the office. Our office phone remains the same, 609-924-4646; however, it is best to reach staff by email or by calling our new cell phone, 609-578-7470 or [info@drgreenway.org](mailto:info@drgreenway.org).

Remote office procedures and delayed mail has meant acknowledgment letters and our newsletter may reach you later than usual. We are very grateful to all our supporters for your contributions, patience and understanding. Thank you for your help as we continue to meet our mission to preserve and protect land, and inspire a conservation ethic, during a challenging time.

### Our Team (top row, l-r)

Linda Mead, Deb Kilmer, Carolyn Edelmann, Danielle Dobisch;  
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