

Hedgerows

SPRING 2006 Published by the Washington Township Land Trust

Celebrate Earth Day and Support Local Land Conservation

Presidents Report

Presented December 2005 at the Annual General Meeting

Keith Hayes, WTLT President

Mill Pond Park/Welsh Farms

Ray Rice, the developer of the Welsh Farms property is close to finalizing the donation of about 15 acres of land adjoining our park along the river. This donation will more than double the size of our park and give us the additional riverfront up to the M.U.A. facility.

Mill

South Wall

Work is mostly complete on the restoration of the South Wall (front wall) of the mill, all of the first floor section of the facade has been restored, the sill plate replaced, the stone foundation repaired (thanks to stones collected from the Borgenicht property), various sections of the framing repaired or replaced, and flooring installed. The windows and chute at the ground level have been reinstalled. Trim and soffit are almost complete.

Window Adoption

So far \$14,000 has been raised for window restoration; there are 56 windows in total. Window restoration has been ongoing throughout the year with Caryl and Chris being our window restoration specialists.

Activities

Crystal Springs Park Tour and Bob Mielich Wine Reception

On June 12th, the WTLT gave a tour of the Crystal Springs property led by Tim Morris. This was followed by a wine reception, honoring Bob Mielich, at the Palmer residence. The wine was supplied by Peapack Fine Wines.

Long Valley Fall Festival

The WTLT was represented at this event on October 1st by Chris Steffan, Karen Richards, Kim Kaiser, and Keith Hayes. Besides giving out our literature, we sold the usual WTLT items.

Crystal Springs Park

Tour

A tour of the park was given in June 2005.

Warm Season Grass Meadow

Warm season grasses were planted on some of the fields in the park so that they may become native bird nesting habitats.

Brochures

Caryl Brackenridge, Paul Krylowski, and Tim Morris worked to update and print a new WTLT brochure.

Website Update

The website is being kept current by Paul Krylowski. The newsletters are on the site.

Land Trust Standards and Practices

In November we officially adopted the Land Trusts Standards and Practices. We will be reviewing the standards a few at a time during our regular board meetings. The standards and practices will result in some changes in how we operate.

Conservation Easement Markers

60 markers at \$20 each have been sold this year.

Obituaries

We were saddened by the loss of three very prominent members this past year. Obituaries for each can be found in our newsletters on the WTLT website.

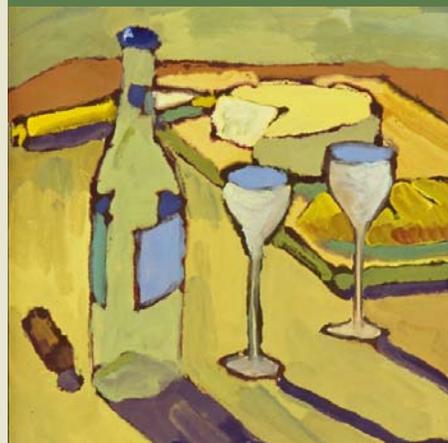
Bill Harrington April 25, 2005

Jack Borgenicht August 25, 2005

Don Waters September 13, 2005

visit the Land Trust web site at
www.wtlt.org

APRIL EVENT



The Washington Township Land Trust

invites you to a

Wine Tasting

Saturday, April 22, 2006

4 PM to 7 PM

at

The Schooley's Mountain Lodge

54 Camp Washington Road

Long Valley, New Jersey

\$45 Per Person in advance/\$50 at door

Tastings by Peapack Fine Wines

Hors d'oeuvres

Live music

RSVP by returning form on back page to

WTLT

P.O. Box 4

Long Valley, NJ 07853

Questions? Call Chris at 908-832-9603

Mission Statement

The Washington Township Land Trust was organized to protect and preserve the ecological, cultural, and historical integrity of the areas that contribute to and enhance the rural character of Washington Township and its environs. The Trust also promotes public interest in conserving land for open space uses in harmony with the natural environment and acquires interests in land by purchase or donation. It also manages land and property easements for the benefit of the public and educates the public to be stewards of the land.

2006 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Keith Hayes
908.876.4603

VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Richards
908.832.7005

TREASURER

Chris Steffan
908.832.9603

SECRETARY

Caryl Brackenridge
908.876.4478

NEWSLETTER

Paul Krylowski
908.832.6936

MILL OFFICE

12 East Mill Rd.
Long Valley, NJ 07853
908.876.5986



Mill Update

by Caryl Brackenridge

Since the last newsletter, we have restored the soffit and trim on the facade of the mill and are now working on windows. It is slow going as the restoration of window sash requires scraping off old paint, removing old glazing, replacing broken panes or modern panes with old glass, re-glazing, gluing broken parts, and then painting with primer and two coats of exterior paint.

Volunteers have spent many Saturdays on this job and efforts are paying off, as four windows have been completed on the second floor of the east wall and two more frames are ready for sash on the first floor. If you drive by at the speed limit (25 mph!) and look at the side of the building next to the garage, you will see our restored windows.



We are restoring thirteen windows under our Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund grant. After that, window restoration will be funded by our Window Adoption Program. For a \$500 donation, you receive a certificate with "before" and "after" photographs and your name is engraved on a plaque permanently mounted next to your window. Donations of \$250 or \$125 are combined and multiple names are engraved on the plaque. Adopting a window permanently records your participation or the name of a loved one, and helps preserve Long Valley history for future generations.



above: Restored windows in different phases of completion. right: Don Walter tackles debris piled up from past storms at the intake arch at our mill.

Fifteenth Annual Meeting

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner was held on December 9, 2005, in the Long Valley First Aid Squad's new addition. We have always enjoyed our annual event at the Middle Valley Community Center which is currently undergoing restoration. Though MVCC is much warmer than our unheated mill, the luxury of indoor plumbing at the First Aid Squad made this year's event special!

Kim Kaiser, Jim Fitterer, and Barbara Kellner were elected to the Board of Trustees; and current Trustees Keith Hayes, Paul Krylowski and Chris Steffan were re-elected to new three year terms. The new Board of Trustees then re-elected President Keith Hayes, Vice-President Karen Richards, Treasurer Chris Steffan and Secretary Caryl Brackenridge.

Canoeing in your own backyard... the streams of NJ

by Tim Morris

Recently I became the happy owner of a new canoe, built to carry one or two people on a variety of waters. It is a beauty! For years I'd dreamed of getting a canoe to take out on the mighty Delaware River and down the remote twisting cedar streams of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. So finally my wish has come true, and after trying it out on various waters throughout the State, I found another reason why Long Valley is such a wonderful place to live. Some of the best stretches of canoeing water I've found have been right in our own backyard, literally for some of us!

The South Branch of the Raritan River is a beautiful canoe route. The trip from Naughtright Road to Califon was challenging enough to be interesting, but mild enough that even as a novice, I never got wet. I was even able to shoot over the drop caused by the old mill dam at the

(continued from page 4)

Did you know... that land preservation helps canoeers? A lot of the streams in north Jersey are only canoeable right after a heavy rain, when the water level is moderately high. Land protection helps to keep streams at a more constant flow by allowing more of the watershed to absorb rainwater into the ground. Developed watersheds have more of ground covered by impervious surfaces like buildings, roads, and parking lots. These surfaces keep water from percolating into the ground, instead sending it right into the streams. In highly developed areas, water flow after a rain storm reaches flood stage very quickly, then drops quickly back down to low levels. In more natural watersheds, water levels rise and recede more slowly, often causing less damage from flooding, and allowing more days of moderate water levels that are perfect for canoeing!

In New Jersey Once

by Maria Mazziotti Gillan

In New Jersey once, marigolds grew wild.
Fields swayed with daisies.
Oaks stood tall on mountains.
Powdered butterflies graced the velvet air.

Listen. It was like that.
Before the bulldozers.
Before the cranes.
Before the cement sealed the earth.

Even the stars, which used to hang in thick clusters in
the black sky, even the stars are dim.

Burrow under the blacktop, under the cement, the old
dark earth is still there. Dig your hands into it, feel it,
deep, alive on your fingers.

Know that the earth breathes and pulses still.
Listen. It mourns. In New Jersey once, flowers grew.

Gillan, Maria Mazziotti. *Where I Come From: Poems Selected and New*.
Toronto, Canada: guernica editions, 1994. Reprinted with permission.

Below is a small list of butterflies native to New Jersey and the plants their caterpillar larva feed upon. This is by no means a complete list. There are many more species of butterflies in New Jersey and the feeding habits of some are still a mystery.

- Northern Metalmark Ragwort*
- Little Wood Satyr Wild rice
- Olive Hairstreak Eastern Red cedars
- Mourning Cloak Willow, Elm, Hackberry, Cottonwood
- Pearly Crescentspot Aster
- Question Mark Nettles, Hops, Elms,
Hackberry
- American Cooper Sheep Sorrel, Curly Dock



*Ragwort (left and above) is a controversial weed in the UK. It can be lethal to animals if ingested and there is a movement by the Equestrian community to eradicate it. One web site stated a horse would need to eat 5% daily of its entire diet for 6 straight months and then it would die. Another site claimed the threat is over blown.



Flower gardens... are they enough?

by Paul Krylowski

Not much snow shoveling this year and I am by no means complaining about that. Spring is beginning to bring things to life. The longer warm days make the urge to be outside more appealing with each passing day. There are the signs of Spring appearing such as daffodils emerging from the twig and debris latent ground. Birds scouting nesting sites, frogs beginning to court a mate and the mailbox is full of lawn care advertisements.

I tell myself each year, this is the year I plant a flower garden to attract wildlife such as butterflies. There has been much written on which flowers to plant for attracting these insects to the garden. Creating flower gardens of beauty that no self-respecting insect could ignore. But time seems to slip by without much of a garden appearing in my yard. Though I can never seem to find the time to plant the flower garden I want there is another way I feel I contribute to helping our fragile friend the butterfly, survive in New Jersey. I try to save their homes by reducing the pesticides I apply in my yard.



Each species of butterfly, like many other animals, requires a very specific habitat. In their larval stage as caterpillars, they feed on very specific plants. The Orange Sulfur (left) is a native species of NJ and one of its primary foods as a caterpillar is White Clover (below). Clover is a target of lawn herbicides.



The Eastern Tailed Blue is another species whose larva feeds on clover. The Blue's diminutive size and silver undersides which tend to reflect light and help camouflage its flight, make it a difficult insect to visually follow and hence it probably goes unseen by the majority of homeowners.

You can plant all the flowers you want, but what good will it do if you are trying to attract something that does not exist.



Harris Checkerspot caterpillars feed on Aster & Crown beard



Red Admiral caterpillars feed on Nettles



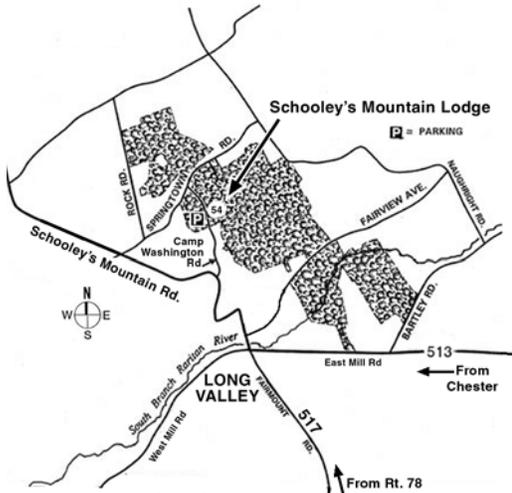
Buckeye caterpillars feed on Mallow and Purslane

Wine Tasting Event

Saturday, April 22, 2006
4 PM to 7 PM

at The Schooley's Mountain Lodge
54 Camp Washington Road
Long Valley, New Jersey

Mark your calendar. You will not want to miss this wine tasting event to be held at the Schooley's Mountain Lodge. This is a wonderful location nestled in Schooley's Mountain County Park. Peapack Fine Wines has graciously agreed to handle the wine selections and has arranged for multiple vendors to supply an assortment of wines for your tasting pleasure. Valley Restaurant will prepare our hors d'oeuvres and live music will complete the occasion. We are still finalizing the details, so check our web site for updated information. www.wtlt.org



Canoeing in your own backyard... the streams of NJ (continued from page 2)

foot of the Land Trust's Obadiah Latourette Grist and Saw Mill. The scenery is spectacular in the fall, and it is fascinating to see the places you've known all your life from such a different perspective, both from your angle of viewing and the linear connection that the river makes as it flows through town. During my trip I saw trees that had been gnawed by beaver, numerous Great Blue Herons, and even some hawks soaring over the shoulder of Schooley's Mountain, gaining altitude for their annual trip south.

I'm planning my next trip across town on the historic Musconetcong, from the north end of Hackettstown down along the Washington Township border to a take out point somewhere near beyond Port Murray. I look forward to floating by all of Long Valley's little Musconetcong communities like Beattystown and Stephansburg, and seeing how they look from a river view. As on the Raritan, I also look forward to seeing all of my old fishing haunts from another perspective, as I drift by the calm spots or struggle to keep my boat free of the rapids. Perhaps on my trip, I'll spot a river otter or a kingfisher. I know they're out there. Mostly, I just hope that I'll stay dry; if I can manage that, I know it will be an enjoyable trip.

If you decide to explore these rivers by boat, I recommend an excellent guide called Garden State Canoeing: A Paddler's Guide to New Jersey by Edward Gertler. And of course, please take appropriate precautions when canoeing any stream. Wear a life vest and make sure you'll be able to handle the route you've chosen.



Wine Tasting \$45 Per Person

(all but \$15 is tax deductible, contributions are fully deductible)

- Yes, I plan to attend with _____ guests
- No, I am sorry to miss it, but would like to make this donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to: Washington Township Land Trust
P. O. Box 4
Long Valley, NJ 07853



Washington Township Land Trust
PO Box 4
Long Valley, NJ 07853-0004

Nonprofit Organization
PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Long Valley, NJ 07853
Permit No. 99

