

Hedgerows

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Washington Township Land Trust Mission Statement

The Washington Township Land Trust was organized to protect and preserve 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.

Highlands Coalition Grant For Mill Double-Arch Repair

Perhaps members of WTLT noticed the recent front-page headline (with color photo!) of the Observer-Tribune for October 25: "Highlands Coalition Funding Aids Historic Long Valley Mill." The Washington Township Land Trust owns the Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill, and the accompanying article goes on to explain that our successful application for a \$5,000 grant from the Highlands Coalition will help to repair the double-arch outlet on the Northwest side of the turbine bay of the Mill.

The grant was timely, and we are indeed grateful, as a permanent repair of the double-arch is necessary to stabilize the 268-year-old structure and foundation that sits in the South Branch of the Raritan River.



The mill's double-arch outlet is a vital structural component of the building.

Hunting Program

Back in June, Trustees Joe Koller and Dan Ross initiated and designed a hunting program on designated Land Trust properties. Over the summer, they worked on refining their design to comply with 'best practices' standards, and at the August meeting of the Board their final plan was unanimously approved for implementation in September.

The WTLT hunting program is designed in large part as stewardship program focused on managing the burgeoning local deer population, which is getting out of control due to a lack of natural predators. A normal ecological balance would have about 12 deer per square mile (psm); however, in Morris County and environs the population density is about 26 deer psm. Deer consume many native plants and flowers but do not eat invasive plants, thus allowing those species to proliferate.

Concerns for safety and insurance costs are mitigated by the experience of other well-regulated hunting programs in the state, which have reported no significant problems. It's been no secret our properties have been used illegally by hunters, but with our hunting program those properties will now be monitored by our registered hunters, who, using "best practices" are obligated to act as stewards. Their vehicles will have approved stickers on them, so any vehicles of hunters without such stickers would stand out. The program should pay for itself through registration fees. This first year, the program is limited to bow hunting only.

Benches In Mill Pond Park

In the fall of 2017 a permanent bench appeared under the large swamp maple tree that shelters the Helen Andrews Memorial Garden that lies near the beginning of the Frying Pan Trail of Mill Pond Park. Near the beginning of October this year another bench of similar design appeared farther down that trail, along the river. They are the work of John Holt, WTLT trustee and member of the Land Stewardship Committee, who built them to last. They are made of pressure-treated 2"x 6" boards and 4"x 4" posts sunk two feet into the ground and anchored by concrete footings. *Happy sitting!*



Long time volunteers and care takers of the park Caryl Brackenridge (left) and Chris Steffan, put the bench to test

The Pathways of History, a Morris County wide event (Sept. 22-23), was a big success.

Our Obadiah LaTourette Mill was one of 17 places on this road tour for the second year in a row. Jim Fitterer hosting with Kim Kaiser's help, about fifty (50) visitors came to see the Mill. Additionally, the visitors contributed \$113 in donations and bought \$71 worth of our collectible merchandise. Subsequently we received a \$100 donation afterwards from one of the visitors.



ADULT SPOTTED LANTERN FLIES
Photo NJ Department of Agriculture.

Spotted Lantern Fly

WTLT Trustee Dan Ross wants us to be on the look-out for evidence of the presence of a new invasive insect from Asia, the *Spotted Lantern Fly*. At this time, people should particularly inspect evergreens used as Christmas trees, especially those from Pennsylvania, where the *Spotted Lantern Fly* has turned up. Look for egg masses, which are yellowish-brown and covered with a gray, waxy coating prior to hatching. The nymphs are black with distinctive white spots; adults have black-spotted light brown forewings and black-spotted red and black hind wings. This insect causes damage to many host plants, including fruit trees and vines.



YOUNG JUVENILE SLF
Photo Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.



EGG MASS ON TREE TRUNK
Photo by Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

[Dan is Chair of the Washington Township Green Team, and is the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator for Somerset County Parks.]

COMING EVENTS

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, December 8, 2018 – 11am-4pm
908-876-9696 info@wthsnj.org

The Apartment in the Obadiah LaTourette Grist Mill is featured. Rustic charm, original shiplap walls, re-purposed wood and items from the Roehrich house, interesting antiques

ANNUAL MEETING OF WTLT

(April, 2019 – Tba)

Membership dues are due now. Your support is appreciated and is essential to keep the Land Trust moving forward.

WALK AND TALK ON WTLT PROPERTIES
(Spring, 2019 – TBA)

Dan Ross, WTLT trustee and our resident environmental expert will be offering an interesting and topical program.

Washington Township Land Trust Annual Membership

- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Business \$100



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail (For WTLT use only) _____

Donation (optional)

I wish to donate \$_____ for:

- Land preservation
- Mill restoration work
- Mill Park plantings/maintenance

Make check payable to: WTLT
PO Box 4
Long Valley, NJ 07853

*Volunteers and Professional Services Needed.
Contact any WTLT officer for details.*



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