

# Spotlight on Stewardship

*Preserving land is the first step; caring for it is an ongoing and permanent responsibility.*

Under the guidance of D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship Jim Amon, our stewardship staff and a host of dedicated volunteers monitor and care for 94 D&R Greenway preserves and private properties protected by conservation easement. Stewardship activities include controlling invasive species and restoring native habitat as well as building and maintaining trails to provide people with safe and appropriate access to lands that public funds have helped preserve. Our work on these lands increases their conservation value and contributes to an overall healthier environment. Here are some highlights.

## Trail Development

Over 10 miles of trails have been created and maintained throughout our preserves—by clearing brush, removing invasive plants, building bridges and walkways and installing signs and markers. To find maps, directions and other information about trails in our area, please visit our website [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) and click on *Find a Place to Walk*, or visit the New Jersey Trails Association website [www.njtrails.org](http://www.njtrails.org).



D&R Greenway Stewardship and Education Associate Mary Penney helps to prepare a slope of the Ted Stiles Preserve at Bald Pate Mountain for the installation of stone stairs.



Volunteers building bridges for a new trail. Pictured from left to right: Lynn Ebeling; D&R Greenway Trustee Ted Thomas; Remy Danahey; Tom Ebeling; Robin Schore; Stephen Highcock; D&R Greenway Trustee Alan Hershey and Bob Heil. This trail will pass through some of the most historic and scenic lands in our region, winding north from Mercer County's Howell Living History Farm up to the 400-acre United Water Property in Hunterdon County (preserved by D&R Greenway and partners in 2003) then heading west to Lambertville.

D&R Greenway would like to thank Home Depot of West Windsor for donating the construction materials for building this and one other bridge.

## Native Plant Nursery

D&R Greenway Site Steward Jared Rosenbaum and volunteers Carol Critchlow and Bill Flemer conceived the vision for D&R Greenway's Native Plant Nursery. This unique undertaking was designed to provide high-quality plants for our preserves, for the conservation community and for homeowners. These plants are propagated from responsibly collected seed and cutting stock indigenous to central New Jersey and are well-adapted for its ecology. Native plants are easy to care for. They will attract and sustain birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife and will help create backyard landscapes of harmonious natural beauty.



D&R Greenway volunteer Carol Critchlow selling a native plant to supporter Penny Thomas during D&R Greenway's Agricultural Event held in October 2008. If you are interested in purchasing native plants, please call our office at 609-924-4646.

## Volunteer Site Stewards

Neighbors who live nearby D&R Greenway preserves have made a commitment to help us care for them — from monitoring easements to removing trash. They, along with other volunteers, provide a tremendous service. We are very grateful for their commitment to the land.



Jim Goodman and D&R Greenway Trustee Mary Leck monitoring one of the 94 preserves and conservation easements held by D&R Greenway. Each property is monitored at least once a year to ensure the terms of the preservation agreement are being followed.

## Youth Volunteers

From the sixth grade science students at Princeton Day School to juniors at Stuart Country Day School, the trend has been for the youth of our community to get active—out on the land.



High school juniors from Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Princeton volunteered to construct a trail through D&R Greenway's Drake's Corner Road Preserve in Princeton. They also cleared litter, removed invasive plants and planted native ferns on the property. Pictured front to back are: Beki Dripps, Christina Cuneo and Kathryn Rogers.

Sixth graders from Princeton Day School helping to care for D&R Greenway's Cedar Ridge Preserve in Hopewell.



Volunteer site stewards Ray and Barbara Hallows remove debris from D&R Greenway's Pyne Woods Preserve. These 33 acres in Lawrence Township were permanently protected in 2000.

## Corporate Volunteers

Local businesses have organized work days to provide their employees with the opportunity to give back to the community while enjoying a day of camaraderie out on the land — a break from the daily office routine!



Stewardship volunteers from Educational Testing Service spend a day on the land.



## Visit the Stewardship blog

To learn more about how to manage natural lands, visit a newly-formed blog that local land stewards have recently started. It can be found at <http://stewardshiproundtable.org>.

If you would like to join our stewardship volunteers, please contact Jim Amon at 609-924- 4646 ext. 124 or [jamon@drgreenway.org](mailto:jamon@drgreenway.org).