

WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message	2
HLTA Volunteers	2
New Trustees	3
1999 Events	4



Conservation Matters

Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

Vol. 3, No. 1

Spring 1999

Spring Program to Feature
Noted Photographer and
Conservationist Clem Fiori

Thursday, May 13 at 7:30
Freeholders Meeting Room,
Victorian Plaza,
Corner of Main and
Pennsylvania Ave, Flemington

Clem Fiori has said that his presentation could be called "One Thing Leads To Another." The well-known photographer of the rural landscape and author of *The Vanishing New Jersey Landscape*, is also a conservationist. As a chronicler of the disappearing landscape of open farmland, winding country roads, streams, and ancient hedgerows, he helps us define what it is we want to preserve. As chair of the Open Space Committee in Montgomery Township in Somerset County, he works for preservation in the realm of plans and ordinances.

Clem will show his stunning large format black and white photographs while he describes the evolution of his work – from photography, to his study of trees and how they illustrate water, motion and time, to his use of osage orange trees to create sculptural furniture. Clem will also talk about how his work as an artist led to his community involvement in saving open space.

All are welcome to attend this public event. We will have information about HLTA and some light refreshments. This is your chance to introduce a friend or two to our organization. For information please call Joyce Koch at 908-479-9943.

A Fun Family Day Planned at
Readington River Buffalo Farm

Sunday, May 30 – 10 am to 5 pm

Tour the farm, learn about the care and handling of buffalo, see small animals and birds from local wildlife care centers, have lunch, find out about HLTA projects. See inside for details.

HLTA Acquires First Property!

Dr. and Mrs. David Dondero of West Amwell have protected their historic 36-acre farm. The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, in a three-way partnership with the D&R Greenway, and the State of New Jersey has worked with the Donderos to permanently restrict the property.

This 1750 farm was formerly the estate of Cornelius Coryell, an aide to General George Washington during the American Revolution. The prize property is a microcosm of Hunterdon County: a rolling hay-field, a forest treed with specimen ash, oak, sycamore, maple, and hickory, and all topped off by a model vernacular stone farmhouse and barn. These environmentally significant lands serve as headwaters for a tributary to the D & R Canal and contribute to an international flyway for migrating birds.

The Donderos have sold the farm's development rights on all but the 2 acres surrounding their home. HLTA, in partnership with the D & R Greenway, helped negotiate the transaction with Dr. and Mrs. Dondero who have sold the development rights at less than market value and will reap the tax benefits of a charitable donation for the difference. The entire deal is costing close to \$250,000, of which the State Green Acres Program will provide about 80%. All three partners will retain an interest in the development rights of the property and HLTA has agreed to monitor the easements. An agricultural easement covers the 17 acres of farmland. Another easement conserves the 17 wooded acres where public access will be allowed so that you too can enjoy this gorgeous piece of Hunterdon. ●



photo by Clem Fiori

HLTA Has An Office

Thanks to Kingwood Township HLTA is sharing office space with the Delaware River Greenway Partnership in a building on Route 29, just south of Frenchtown. The office is in a small park made from a reclaimed superfund site.

HLTA is grateful for the donation of a copier from the South Branch Watershed Association and to Blaher Office Furniture Outlet's donation of used office furniture.

Wish List

Call Dave Buchholz at 908-996-0015 if you can help us acquire any of the following:

- fax machine
- general office supplies

To Reach HLTA

Web: www.hlta.org
Email: land@hlta.org
Phone: 609-397-7319
Address: P.O. Box 143,
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

President's message

While the state legislators figure out how to divvy up the open space preservation dollars from November's ballot question, Green Acres is receiving plenty of requests for funding. The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance is in frequent contact with the Green Acres staff and we have been met with open arms. At this point we have one project that is approved and funded (see front page), and several applications that are almost complete. Two of these applications are sparking a great deal of interest from neighbors and it looks like the "domino effect" will be occurring in parts of Hunterdon County. As the Deputy Administrator of Green Acres told us, "Success begets success" and we have every reason to believe that we will soon be funding even more projects – hopefully the next one will be near you.

Clearly there are many conventional measures of success. In land trusts, the traditional "acres

and bucks" method is the best known, but contributions and recognition speak volumes about an organization too. If our recent winter fundraising drive is any indication of how our recognition has grown, it is fair to say that HLTA is doing something right. Our new memberships were up over 100% and funds raised were almost double last year's solicitation. Success is also measured by the quality of Board members that an organization is able to attract. This year we've added some great new talent that expands both our experience level and our sphere of influence in the county.

I think the members of the land trust have spoken loud and clear that they love Hunterdon County. It's the rolling fields; it's the creeks and rivers; it's those old-growth oak and beech groves; it's the narrow winding roads and one-lane bridges. That's what we want to preserve in this truly unique part of the State.

– ROGER HARRIS

HLTA Volunteers



Roger Harris

Many dedicated people are working to make HLTA a success.

Trustee Sandy Madon interviewed president Roger Harris for this first in a series of HLTA volunteer profiles.

Roger Harris, now serving his third year as HLTA president, lives in Delaware Township with his wife, Friederike and their two children, Kristen, 11, and Tyler, 7. Roger works for American Airlines as a Boeing 767

captain and serves as Vice Chair of the Delaware Township Planning Board. Roger's hobbies include woodworking, and gardening.

SM: *Was there anything in your childhood that influenced your strong ties to land and your desire to conserve it?*

RH: I grew up in a small rural area of Massachusetts, very similar to Hunterdon. Like everyone, I place value in the things I grew up with – for me, that includes rural America.

SM: *Tell me something about the formation of HLTA and how you were chosen to be its president.*

RH: My role in HLTA came from a desire to create a land protection tool in

Delaware Township. I started by calling together a number of people who I knew were also interested in land preservation. I researched the process, learned a lot about land trusts and spoke to people all around the country. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation was most helpful. They encouraged us to consider a joint effort with members of other Hunterdon townships. Although most of us initially resisted this idea, we eventually changed our minds for several reasons. If you are going to protect land, you have to be assured that the organization will last and be successful – you need a broad base of support. The problem of vanishing landscapes affects the whole county; one

Welcome New Trustees

Most of us have heard it before – “Well, folks, I’ve got some bad news and I’ve got some good news.” Fortunately in our case, we’ve got far more good news than bad. Five new trustees have been appointed to HLTA. **Styra Avins Eisinger**, a professional cellist and professor of music history, is known locally as one of Bethlehem Township’s liaisons to the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB), and as a member of both the Musconetcong Watershed Association and the Bethlehem Township Preservation Association. **Joyce Koch**, a former reference and government documents librarian, is on Bethlehem’s Environmental Commission and is active with the Musconetcong Watershed Association. **Suzy Hess** comes to us from Raritan Township. Suzy has been a Supervising Planner with the Hunterdon County Planning Board for over 12 years. She’s a GIS (Geographic Information System) ‘whiz’ and is working on her master’s degree in geography from Rutgers. **Ken Jagel** has been

participating in HLTA for some time now but just recently became a new trustee. Ken is a retired engineer and lives in Readington, where he serves on the open space committee. He’s an active volunteer on the board of the South Branch Watershed Association, the County Library, and the Stanton Reform Church. Our newest Trustee from Franklin is **Roy Valentine**. Roy, retired from a 30-year career in education, volunteers for the Quakertown Fire Company and Volunteer Medical Emergency Service. Roy also just concluded a three-year term on Franklin’s Township Committee. Welcome all.

Now the bad news: We are losing two trustees. Regular Trustee **Bunny Muir** of Readington has recently resigned to help with her husband Larry’s convalescence. Bunny has been a tireless volunteer for her community where she is a Township Committee member. We wish Bunny and Larry the very best. Advisory Trustee **John Mack** has moved to Massachusetts to be closer to his family. ●

Looking back on 1998

The Harvest Dinner was held earlier in the fall last year allowing us to have broader participation by local farmers. HLTA Vice President Dave Buchholz created unusual table centerpieces using stones and grasses from creeks and important preserved land. Joel Coyne entertained and educated us with an impressive computerized presentation on the Lockatong Creek watershed. Many thanks to the donors who made the dinner possible: North Slope Farm, Readington River Farm, Church Street Bistro, Bella Sicilia Restaurant, KC Catering and The Baker. The event raised over \$4,000.

The Fundraising Committee has reorganized into 3 subcommittees: events, grants and direct solicitation of corporate and large private donors. Anyone interested in joining this committee in any capacity please contact John Mathieu at 609-397-4568.

countywide organization avoids duplication of effort and gets people thinking on a regional level.

As things progressed, I volunteered to chair the steering committee and one thing led to another. I was elected HLTA’s first president in 1996. It is an honor to work with so many fine dedicated individuals.

SM: *What do you see as HLTA’s greatest accomplishment?*

RH: Getting on the map! Gaining the countywide recognition that we now have. We never envisioned protecting property in our first 3-5 years and it now appears that we will have several projects under our belt this year, just over two years from inception.

SM: *Land preservation seems to be moving into the forefront as an issue of concern to politicians, the media and the general public. How do you think this will affect Hunterdon County?*

RH: Every issue of the newspaper has some important articles about open space and development. This is the single most important issue facing Hunterdon County. The average county resident now understands it will cost less to protect land than to allow it to be developed. The politicians and the media are also beginning to understand this. Hunterdon is the second fastest growing county in New Jersey. HLTA can facilitate land protection – with the cooperation of landowners, citizens, other land conservation organizations, and state, county, and local governments.

SM: *What do you feel are the major challenges?*

RH: Undoubtedly, the biggest challenge is to get all forces pulling in the same direction – consensus. If all of the above powers were to work together, a lot could be accomplished.

SM: *What can people do in their communities?*

RH: Get involved. Volunteer. Join HLTA. We need volunteers. Volunteer for your local Planning Board, Environmental Commission, Board of Health, Board of Adjustment. Talk to friends and neighbors about these problems. Write to elected officials. Advocate for proactive local involvement. ●

To Preserve and Protect the Rural Landscape of Hunterdon County

P.O. Box 143
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

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Editor

Mimi Upmeyer

HLTA Events for 1999

This year we are changing the lineup of our annual fund-raising events. We will again hold a Fall harvest dinner, but the spring pig roast is being transformed into a buffalo watch at one of Hunterdon County's preserved farms.

FAMILY DAY AT THE BUFFALO FARM

Route 523 between Flemington and Whitehouse

Sunday May 30 - 10 am to 5 pm

On May 30, the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, we will hold a joint event with the owners of the Readington River Buffalo farm in Readington Township. It will be a day of fun, education and food. We'll have hot dogs, hamburgers, *buffalo burgers* and of course lots of salads and other goodies for the vegetarians among us.

Scarlett Doyle, owner of the farm, is inviting the public to come and learn about buffalo on her family's 235 acre farm. Visitors will be able to tour the farm, stopping at several stations to learn about how buffalo are handled and fed. It will be calving season, so there's a chance of seeing a birth! Other farm animals include pigs, horses, and cows.

HLTA will have an information booth, with maps of stream corridors and land preservation projects and a few captive owls and small wild animals that were injured and have been nursed back to health. Besides being of interest to children, the wild animal rehabilitation program highlights the importance of open space for wildlife. ●



Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

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WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message 2

HLTA Volunteers 2

New Trustees 3

1999 Events 4

HLTA MEMBERS

Harriet Akoulitchev	Robert Clare*	D & R Greenway	Douglas and Grace Knight	Dean Pennington	Samuel Stothoff
Fred Allen	Bruce & Barbara Coe	Bryant Griffin	August Knispel	Ralph Peters	Fred & Janet Strackhouse
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Mark Andrews	Lee Cole	Andrea Gulban	Carl Koch	Rosemary Picone	John Sundman
Andy and Caroline Armstrong	Donald Colombo	Leslie Hamilton*	Linda Koval	Leslie Pierce	Robert and Deborah Susna
Deborah Ashton	Ken Cook	Dick & Kay Hannan	Theodore Koven	Stephen Pizar	Frances Tanaka
Styra Avins Eisinger	Jo Coudert	Don Harjes	Matilda Krebs	Gary Pohorely	Russ and Janet Poles
Scott and Alix Bacon	Pierre and Shiela Coutin	Jeffrey Harris	Richard Kulas	Sandra Polk	Larry Taylor
Michelle and David Bader*	Joel Coyne	Roger & Friederike Harris*	William Kurtz	David Posey	Thomas Taylor III
John & Kate Bailey	Carolyn Creed	John and Christine Havay	Peter Kwiatek	Martin Rapp	Pam Thier
Frank Banisch	Richard Cushing	Harriette Hawkins	Laurie and Bruce Lakin	William Rawlyk	John Thomas
Miguel & Kathy Barca	Bob Dahl	Shelley Hearne	Leonard Lance	Steven and Edith Rawlyk	Anne Thomas
Franklyn Barlow, Jr.	John Deacon	George Hebel	David and Mair LaTouche	Earl and Judi Reeder	Bryce Thompson
Stanley & Nancy Baron	John DeMarrais	Otto Heck*	Edmund LeGrand*	Bernard Reichert	Thomas Tippet
David and Constance	Anthony DeSapio	Grover Helsley	Richard Levao	William Riley	Mary Ellen Tolmie
Bassett-Cann	Guy DeSapio, esq	Suzy Hess	Susan & Russ Lockwood	Paul Rodgers	Grenelle Tompkins, Jr.
Cornelia Baum	Mervin Dilts	John Hoff & Son	Phil Lubitz	David Roussel	David and Jessica Trenti
Earl Bennett	Jill Dodds	Kathi Hoffman	John and Jane Lutz	Norman Russell, Jr.	Calvin and Alice Trillin
Kristin Bergquist	Beryl Doyle	David Holmes	John and Janice MacChesney	Jacques Sammes	William Tunison
Roger and Erika Bergquist	Harry and Elisabeth Dugger	Jan Holms	Sandra Madon	John Schaff	Roul Tunley*
Louis Bodenheimer	Helen DuToit	Janet Holt	Marquerite Martin	Richard Schatzman	Carl Turner
Ludwig Bohler	Joe & Sue Egan	George Howard	John Mathieu*	Robert Schaul	Dana Ulrich
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George Bork	Naomi Errico	Joseph Hulseman*	Janet McMahon	Andrew Schiller	Marian Van Buren
Thompson and Carol Boys	Denise Evans	Tom & Katherine Hunt	Tom and Laura McMillan	Barbara Schlichting	Jeffrey Vernam
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Richard Braverman	Rachel Finkle	Doug Hurd	Alison Mitchell	Linda Siecke	Debbie Wean
Jim and Kate Breuning	Thomas Flagg	Ken and Linda Hyman	Bob & Roni Mitchell	Brian and Lynette	Mary Weeden
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Geoffrey Buckwalter	Lloyd & Ruth Gang*	Jerry Jefferis	Larry and Bunny Muir	Yvonne Snevely	Suzanne Wilder
Janis Burenga	Fred & Gael Gardner*	Alan & Patti Johnson	Ruth Mummey	Lillian Snyder	Joseph and Phoebe Wiley
Rita Bush	John Gattuso	Carol Johnson	Tom and Miriam Murphy	Marc and Mary Ellen	A.R. & Kris Willey
Steve Buyske	Elizabeth Gilbreath	Stephanie Jones	Kurt Nassau	Soldavin	Chester Williams, Jr.
D & R Canal Commission	Richard Ginman	Robert and Beverly Jones	Tim Newell	David Spector	Bob & Barbara Wolfe*
David and Hope Carter*	Don & Martha Gonzalez	Beverly Jones	Connie and Ray Norteman	Janet Spinella	Steve and Barbara Wolock
Michael Cerrato	John and Bobbie Goodfellow*	Edith Kawano	Walter O'Brien	Kenneth Stern, MD	George Yefchak
Robert & Pam	Marfy Goodspeed	Chris Keep	Stephen & Lynn Opdyke	Dave and Lois Stoltz	Edwin Zerrer III
Chamberlain	Nicholas Greendyk	John & Jane Kengeter	Howard Parker	Richard & Cindy Stoneking	Michael and Janet Ziegler
Louis Cissone	Gaye Greenwald	Kenneth Klipstein, II	Sidney Pearson	Dick & Priscilla Stothoff	<i>* Charter Member</i>
		Marie Kneser	Wilton Pearson		



Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

To Preserve and Protect the Rural Landscape of Hunterdon County

Membership Tear-off form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

- \$25-49 Contributor
- \$50-99 Supporter
- \$100+ Steward
- \$500+ Charter Member

Make checks payable to:

Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

PO Box 143

Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

- Please check this box if you would like to learn about volunteer opportunities on our land acquisition, fundraising or public outreach committees. Whether you are a beginner, an expert, or somewhere in between, HLTA could use your help.