

Hedgerows

MARCH 2005 Published by the Washington Township Land Trust

Presidents Report—Keith Hayes

This is an overview of the Washington Township Land Trust's 2004 activities.

Properties

Crystal Springs Park: (Pelio Property)—This acquisition is complete. In partnership with The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, Green Acres and The New Jersey Water Supply Authority we closed on this property. 50 acres of the park are in Morris County and will be under our management. The total acquisition was 293 acres.



Other Projects

The WTLT is currently working on other land acquisition projects involving over 200 acres of property. We are optimistic that many of these will be completed in 2005.

Special Mention—Although his name rarely appears here, Bob Melich has been donating his legal services to the WTLT for years. He does a great deal of work on our property acquisitions and this past year we have relied on him very heavily. His work is greatly appreciated.

Membership Grant

Tim Morris applied for and the WTLT received a grant in the amount of \$3,300.00 from The Watershed Institute, a program of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association. The grant can be used for aspects of membership outreach, such as newsletters, a website, advertising, and event site rental.

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2004 Annual Meeting

The fourteenth annual meeting and potluck supper was held on December 10, 2004 at the Middle Valley Community Center. As usual, the food was delicious and the meeting was brief.

Keith Hayes presented the President's Annual Report giving an outline of the year's activities, and the following Trustees were re-elected to new three year terms: Caryl Brackenridge, Bill Leavens, Tim Morris, Evan Showell, Laura Showell and Tim Warrenner.

Keith Hayes was re-elected as President, Karen Richards as Vice President, Chris Steffan as Treasurer and Caryl Brackenridge as Secretary.

On behalf of the Showell family, Evan Showell presented the Washington Township Land Trust with an edition of Oliver Evans' book, "The Young Mill-Wright & Miller's Guide."

The last order of business was the unanimous approval of a motion to recognize Bob Melich's service to the Land Trust by engraving his name on the plaque in the mill which honors those who have made special contributions.



Keith Hayes and Evan Showell



Ken Steffan, Paul Krylowski, Tim Morris, Township Committeewoman Kim Kaiser, Shirley Gillette and Robert Stokes.

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.

2005 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

Land Trust Merchandise

The Land Trust fund raising committee has created a number of unique items for sale.

Brownie, cookie and soup mixes
\$5 each

The Purity flour bag (size: 6" x 11")
\$3 each

also available are tee shirts, beer glasses, and sweatshirts

call Caryl Brackenridge for more details
908.876.4478

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch for details

December

**2005 Annual Meeting
and Potluck Dinner**

Presidents Report (continued)

Mill

South Wall—Work continues on the restoration of the South Wall (front wall) of the mill, most of the first floor section of the facade has been removed in preparation for the sill plate and framing repairs.

Windows—Window restoration has been ongoing throughout the year. Caryl and Chris have been our window restoration specialists.

Window Adoption—So far 26 windows have been adopted. There are 56 windows in total.

Activities

Long Valley Fall Festival—The WTLT was represented at this event on October 2nd by Caryl Brackenridge, Chris Steffan and Karen Richards. Besides giving out our literature, we sold cookie and soup mixes plus the usual WTLT items.

Great Corn and Tomato Festival—Kim Kaiser and Keith Hayes manned several games at this event and handed out WTLT literature.

Long Valley Village Association Open Market

The Land Trust decided to sell garden plants. Thanks to the sales efforts of Jim Fitterer, Chris Steffan, and Sarita Ritt, the WTLT made over \$200.

Middle Valley Holiday Bazaar—Caryl Brackenridge and Chris Steffan sold WTLT merchandise at this event.

50th Birthday Party—Member Jim Fitterer celebrated his 50th birthday this year. In lieu of gifts, he asked that donation be made to the WTLT. Thanks to Jim's friends, the land trust raised close to \$1,500.

Parks

Mill Pond Park—There were two trail maintenance work days in May to keep the trails clear in the mill pond park

Crystal Springs Park—In November, Tim Morris led a tour of the newly acquired Crystal Springs Park.

Property Markers—Jeff Keith and Tim Morris posted the new WTLT boundary marker signs in the Crystal Springs Park.

Website Update

The look of the website has been updated by Paul Krylowski with some input by Keith Hayes, Tim Morris and Tim Warrener. Tim Morris knew of and received permission to use the spectacular photo on the opening page taken by George M. Aronson.

Visit the new site at <http://www.wtl.org>



Caryl Brackenridge, Chris Steffan, Keith Hayes, and Tim Morris maintained the Mill Park trails in May 2004.

Christmas Spirit at the Mill

A special note of thanks to Harvey Ort, Jr. for the Christmas tree and to the Long Valley Garden Club for the lovely wreath.

Company Matching Donation Programs



We would like to thank members who have given a donation through the use of their companies donation matching program. This is an effective way to double the value of your donation.

Companies we have received matching funds from are The Chubb Corporation and National Starch & Chemical Foundation, Inc.

If your employer offers a matching donation program, please send us your form and we will apply for the match.

Stanley Kramer

The WTLT Board of Trustees was saddened by the recent death of fellow Trustee Stanley Kramer. Stanley joined the Board in 1992 and served as Mill Committee Chairman for a number of years. His experience in home construction and his interest in historic preservation were valuable assets in our efforts to restore the LaTourette Mill. He provided practical advice at the site, and contributed construction details and vital financial estimates for grant applications. Stanley was always willing to help in any way he could, and he will be greatly missed. We share the sorrow of his wife, Lois, his sons and their families.

Osage Orange

Maclura pomifera

Keith Hayes

Look closely in an old hedgerow during the late fall and you may come upon a most unusual looking fruit. From a distance you might just think that you are seeing some green apples still hanging on the tree or littering the ground, but it's too late in the season for apples. Upon closer inspection you will find the bright lime green fruits have a gnarled, almost brain like skin. They will possess a light turpentine/citrus smell and be slightly sticky to the touch. They will range in size from small apples to grapefruits. What you see are hedge apples, the fruit of the Osage orange tree.

The Osage Orange is native to the Midwest and had been introduced into our area during the early 1800s. These trees were considered the finest plant to use to create hedgerows, the shrubby/wooded strips which divide farmer's fields. If kept pruned to a tall shrub, they will form an impenetrable, extremely thorny fence. An Osage orange hedgerow around a meadow was an effective means of containing livestock; this tree was the preferred choice for fencing and hedgerows until the invention of Barbed Wire later in the 19th century. The invention of barbed wire entirely eliminated the need for this tree and it has probably not been planted in our area in over 100 years. And to further decimate the population, the wood of this tree is extremely rot resistant and was the preferred choice for the posts which the barbed wire was hung on.

The Osage Orange tree averages about 25-30 feet in height, but the old trees are often up to 40-60 feet tall. The bark of the tree is a light grey/brown tinged with orange. The bark is very textured in the older trees. The leaves are about 1 1/2" long and a medium to dark green. The flowers are inconspicuous and appear in the spring. The trees are either male or female and only the females will bear the fruit. The male trees tend to be thornier. There are 200+ seeds in the fruit and they are almost identical to the seeds found in apples. The seeds are a favorite food of squirrels.

The Osage orange wood is extremely dense and heavy. It is one of the best firewoods and burns almost as efficiently as coal. Placing a green log on the fire will create beautifully colored flames. The wood has long been used for hunting bows and is still the most desired wood of bow makers. It is also used for making goose and duck calls and musical instruments such as harps.

The fruit contains a chemical 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxystilbene that is shown to repel certain insects, such as German cockroaches, spiders and lady beetles. While this has never been scientifically proven, many people place the fruits throughout their homes for this reason.



Unfortunately in this day and age, the tree has almost no use other than to be grown for nostalgic reasons or to have a nearby supply of the fruits. Since it is a bit messy, very thorny, and not a very attractive tree, it has a limited use in the home landscape. But if you have a large yard or a field, and want to give it a try for old time's sake then do the following. Crush some of the freshly fallen fruits under the wheels of your car to expose the seeds. Then plant the crushed pieces of fruit in the ground with about 1 inch of soil covering them. They should sprout in the spring and within about 10 years you will have your own supply of hedge apples.

Osage Orange are native to southern Oklahoma and northern Texas. They derive their name from the Osage Indians who prized the wood for its strength and elasticity. The Osage Indians used the trees to make bows and war clubs. The wood is stronger than oak.

Osage Orange can grow as either a shrub or tree, depending on the density of the surrounding growth. Standing alone in full sun they will become a multi-stemmed shrub; with growth competition they can become a single-stemmed tree. Although it is the only member of its genus (a monotype), it is cousin to the mulberry family (Moraceae).

Land Trust Launches 2005 Membership Drive

You can help—tell a friend!

The Land Trust recently announced our 2005 membership drive. This year we're making an extra effort to expand our membership and raise awareness of local land conservation issues. As a member, you can help by telling your friends in the community why you choose to support the Land Trust, or by giving a gift membership to someone you think would support our work. If you're not currently a member, please consider joining—we'll put your contribution to good use.

Member support is extremely important to the Land Trust. We rely upon membership dues and contributions to match public funding available from state and county sources. A strong response to this campaign will allow us to continue to protect land in the community, and restore the historic Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill

The membership drive is supported by a grant from the Stony-brook Millstone Watershed Association of Pennington, NJ. The \$3,300 grant will help to pay for newsletter and brochure printing and distribution, outreach and education events, and the costs associated with the new Washington Township Land Trust website. If you haven't done so already, please visit us at www.wtlt.org to see the work generously donated by Graphics House of Long Valley.

Keep an eye out for this year's events, which will include volunteer work days, guided hikes, and other events. For more information on becoming a member, please contact us at (908) 876-5986 or visit the new website.

Become a Member

WTLT has had a great response to our recent renewal letter. We wish to thank everyone who has sent in their membership renewals. Many people felt they were able to donate in addition to their renewal dues and for that we are extremely grateful. It is not too late if you have not yet sent in your renewal dues.

Memberships (headcount, dues and donations) are vital for our projects and matches for grants to which we apply. If you are not yet a member of the Land Trust, please use the form and join us now. Thank you all for your support.

✉ Mail to:

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

1 Please select a class of annual membership:

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

2 NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Donation (optional)

- I wish to donate \$_____ for land preservation

- Please use this donation for Mill restoration work \$_____

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



Washington Township Land Trust

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