

Hedgerows

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Support Local Land Conservation

50/50 Winner Announced



Caryl Brackenridge (left), John Hennessy, & Chris Steffan during presentation of check in front of the Obadiah LaTourette Mill in Long Valley, NJ.



On November 3, John Hennessy became \$1,390 richer when his winning 50/50 ticket was drawn at the Washington Township Land Trust's Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill in Long Valley, New Jersey. Mr. Hennessy is a long time resident of Long Valley and had purchased 3 tickets on different occasions. The tickets were part of a 50/50 fund raising raffle run by the Land Trust for the purpose of supporting its land conservation work in the Washington Township area and the restoration work on the historic Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill. The mill dates back to the 1750's and was saved from demolition in the early 1990's.

Land Trust Board members Chris Steffan and Caryl Brackenridge presented Mr. Hennessy his winnings at the mill a week following the drawing. Meeting inside the building, Mr. Hennessy commented on the impressive progress the Land Trust has made with the restoration of the mill. Steffan and Brackenridge have volunteered many hours working on all aspects of the mill project and were appreciative of Mr. Hennessy's comments.

The 50/50 raffle was the Land Trust's first attempt at this type of fund raising activity. Proceeds will be used to support the work of the non-profit land conservation organization. To-date the Land Trust has helped preserve over 300 acres of land in the area. This magnitude of work involves partnering with governing bodies, conservation organizations and State agencies utilizing funding vehicles such as Green Acres. Behind all these land conservation activities are the unseen costs for land surveys, environmental impact studies and attorney reviews.



Upcoming Seventeenth Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner will be held December 14, 2007, 7 pm at the Long Valley Rescue Squad on East Mill Rd. Attendees are requested to bring either an appetizer, entree or dessert and whatever they wish to drink. There will be coffee and tea. There will be a short business meeting to review the slate of officers. So make plans to join us. It will be a fun evening with good food and company!



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.

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Crystal Springs Farm

By Keith Hayes

It was the late 1930s. Imagine beautiful hills, surrounded by green forests, grassy meadows, and clear running streams. In the middle of this paradise we see a group of happy Austrian children singing and playing. Could they be singing "The Hills are alive with the sound of music"? Well, no they could not, that would not be written for another 30 years. Also banish any images of the Alps, Nazis, Nuns and Julie Andrews. So, where are we? We are right here in Long Valley, New Jersey at Crystal Springs Farm, the home of Adam and Germaine Meloche Roth and their four adopted Austrian children.



Louise Lang (left) feeding pigs with sister Linda and Aunt Germaine Roth in front of her farmhouse, 1952

The Roth's and their family worked the 233 acre farm for many years and were joined in 1947 by Adam's brother in law, Max and his wife, Rosa, and their two daughters, Luisa and Linda. From 1947 to 1976 the farm consisted of sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks and a milking herd of 125 cows. The farm also had three ponds that were stocked with catfish and other fish.

Adam Roth was an engineer by trade and owned Aircraft Engineering in Clifton, NJ. He took up farming as a relaxing hobby with his wife handling the farm finances. Mr. Roth was issued patent # 2,036,724 for a "reciprocating mechanism for engines and similar units". Drawings with his signature can be seen on the U.S. Patent Office web site. His family also credits him with the development of rotary components for the first practical helicopter, in association with Igor Sikorsky.

The property stopped being a working farm with Adam's death in 1976. His wife died four years later. After their deaths, the farm was sold, various tenants moved in and out of the 3 houses on the property and the large barn fell into disrepair. Local farmers leased some of the fields and acres of corn still grew on the property until recently. In the last few years, many of the fields have been planted with native grasses to encourage the return of song-birds and native wildlife. This year, the collapsing barn and most of the buildings were removed to return the property back to a more natural setting.



150' long dairy barn at Crystal Springs Farm, March 1946

Now that we know some history for this property, one might wonder how it went from being a family farm to being a preserved public property. The acquisition of this property was done in partnership with many groups. All of these groups had a common interest in preserving this piece of land which straddles Morris and Hunterdon Counties; together they bought it for \$2,267,241.60. These groups are the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Hunterdon County, the township of Lebanon, The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, and the Washington Township Land Trust.

Crystal Springs is now a quiet park with hills, meadows, fields, streams and ponds. The park is ideal for a quiet picnic, hiking and nature walks, and bird watching. So, on the next clear crisp weekend, please visit the park and remember...

Climb every mountain, search high and low.

Follow every byway, every path you know.

Climb every mountain, ford every stream.

Follow every rainbow, till you find your dream!

Picture this ...

by Keith Hayes

It is a cool fall evening, you decide to go to bed early and read a good novel. After a few pages you notice something about 1/2 of an inch long slowly moving across the ceiling of your bedroom. You try to ignore it, but it just keeps creeping across. You put aside the book and get out from under the warm bedcovers to get a closer look. The bug is brownish and slender and walks slowly on 6 legs; you smash it with one of your bedside slippers.



Asian Lady Beetles over-wintering in a home (top photo). Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (bottom photo). Photos Paul Krylowski.

You get settled back into your warm bed and open the novel. Out of the corner of your eye you see another bug walking across the top of the curtains on the window across the room. Once again you get up, bringing your slipper with you. You knock it off of the curtains and smash it on the floor. While doing this you notice a similar sized, more shield shaped insect on the window, and on closer inspection you notice there are half a dozen of them. Six smacks from the slipper and you notice a very pungent smell coming from the crushed insects. You leave the slipper behind and climb back into your cozy bed.

After reading a few pages of the novel, a large orange lady beetle lands on the book and you flick it away with your finger, it returns and you flick it so hard that it bounces off of the wall; it does not return. After a few minutes you start to hear a pinging noise on the bedside lamp and realize that there are two lady beetles bouncing off of the bulb. You get up to remove them and notice that there are also some one inch long black insects with red under wings. Upon closer inspection you notice a cluster of the black/red insects in the corner of the ceiling. You turn on the rest of the bedroom lights and notice a few clusters of lady beetles, more of the black ones, a few of the long slow moving ones and lots of the rounder ones on the windows....



Yikes, this is either the premise of a Stephen King novel or you live in Northwestern New Jersey. (*Which is scarier?...*) Unfortunately for us, the answer is New Jersey. What is occurring in your bedroom is the attempted over wintering of 3 invasive insects and one native one, luckily all are harmless but each can be a huge nuisance.

The first is the Western Conifer Seed Bug. This is a western species that has recently made its way east. It is 3/4 inch long, brown and has flattened expansions on its hind legs; it is a member of the family of insects known as the leaf footed bugs. It is very slow moving and can be found in large numbers in the home.

The second is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. This is a very new invasive species for us and is appearing in huge numbers in this area. It is about 3/4 inch long, shield shaped and has a brown/grey mottled color. It is a true member of the stink bug family and has an unpleasant odor when crushed.

The third is the old familiar Asian lady beetle. These are about 1/4 inch long and are various shades of orange or tan with differing numbers of spots, sometimes no spots at all. They came here from Asia in the 1980s and are now very well established. They tend to be found in clusters inside the home.

The fourth is the Boxelder Bug which has the distinction of being a native species. It feeds off of the seeds of the Boxelder tree and in the fall can be found by the thousands on the exterior walls of homes. They are about 3/4 of an inch long and about 1/4 of an inch wide. They are black with a bright red abdomen under the wings.

...they will find the slightest crack...

So, what does one do? Nothing. Short of shrink wrapping your home for the winter, there is no way to keep these insects out; they will find the slightest crack, open window, open door, chimney, vent, etc... Since they don't bite, sting or transmit disease, it is best to just attack them with the vacuum. They are not laying eggs or reproducing inside, left alone, most of them will die from the lack of humidity in the home.

So, the only thing to do is get back under the warm covers, ignore the tiny visitors and enjoy the novel.



Mill Update

by Caryl Brackenridge

Window Adoption

During most of 2007, restoration work has consisted of the installation of sheathing on the north wall of the 1750 section of the building, and the fabrication, and installation of window frames and sash. Since the completion of our Morris County grant last year, the window restoration has been funded by our Window Adoption Program.

Thirty-one windows in the mill have been adopted, with twenty-four still available for adoption. While it costs approximately \$1,000 a window to fabricate and install the frame and sash, complete with authentic old glass, a window can be adopted for \$500. (Obviously a deal!) Your name will be engraved on a plaque, mounted on a display

board and then permanently mounted next to your window once it is restored.

Donations of \$250 for half a window and \$125 for one-fourth will be combined and multiple names will be engraved on the plaque. This is a perfect opportunity for individuals and organizations to help preserve Long Valley history and record their participation or the name of a loved one for posterity.

The mill is open for tours most Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. or anytime by appointment. (908-876-4478) *Come and check out our new windows!*

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.*



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