

# Hedgerows

Spring 2012 Published by the Washington Township Land Trust

*This Land Is Your Land — Support Local Conservation*



The late Keith Hayes standing next to the old oak that fell victim to the 2011 flooding.



## Park and Trail Updates

by Chris Steffan

### Columbia Trail Improvement

If you have ever walked or bicycled the Columbia Trail starting at Schooley's Mt. Rd. and headed east, you have had to navigate a portion of Toll Bros. development, ending up at Frazier Steel where there was no dedicated path. That changed last fall when Morris County Park Commission started work on the trail at Fairview Ave.

With the early arrival of spring they have again begun working. Trail users will no longer cross the Toll Brothers development road as MCPC has made the connection from the east side of Frazier Steel to the west end of the trail crossing Land Trust property. The elongated S turn section will add a bit of interest to the path as it encompasses part of the old Central Jersey rail bed that came into Long Valley.

Our trail sign was removed to accomplish this work and, unfortunately, has since disappeared. We hope to install a new one in the near future.



### Park Clean up

This past fall was one most of us will remember but prefer not to repeat; Hurricane Irene, tropical storm Lee, flash floods followed by heavy snow in October. As we are all aware, there was quite a bit of damage done. Mill Pond Park was subjected to flooding from all of the storms, but held up fairly well. A board bridge was lost as was a trail sign or two. Several trees fell over but fortunately most did not block any of our trails. (The one tree that did has since been cut, allowing free travel along the path.)

As we consider this a wetland nature park, much of the fallen plant life will remain where it is. With that being said, there is still a need for clean up. Trash floating down river settled in the park when the water receded and needs to be removed. Lumber has to be picked up, and paths need to be cleared of plants reaching into them. We have set several clean-up dates and hope that you will come out and help.

We usually meet at the West Cul-de-sac of the Toll Brothers development. If you have hand or hedge clippers, loppers, a saw or other yard tool that you are willing to bring, we would appreciate it as we do not have a supply of these tools. (Please put an identifying mark on them.) We will provide water. For time and dates check our web site under the Events tab.

[www.wtltr.org/events\\_pg01](http://www.wtltr.org/events_pg01)

### 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.

### 2012 OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Karen Richards

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Tim Warrener

**TREASURER**  
Chris Steffan

**SECRETARY**  
Susan Penney

**NEWSLETTER**  
Paul Krylowski

**MILL OFFICE**  
12 East Mill Rd.  
Long Valley, NJ 07853  
908.876.5986

Color versions of the newsletter can be found on [www.wtlt.org](http://www.wtlt.org)

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## 2011 Year in Review

Submitted by Karen Richards, President

2011 started off on a sad note with the illness of our President, Keith Hayes, and his passing in April 2011. Keith joined the Land Trust in 1997, shortly after joining he became secretary, and then served as the President from 2002 until his passing in April of 2011. I had the privilege of serving as his vice president since 2003. Keith's dedication, talents, creativeness, and friendship are hard to match and are missed by us all. It is people like Keith, who dedicate their time and skills, that make a non-profit successful.

In May of 2011 we held a memorial service for Keith at the Mill attended by over 100 people. Many volunteers worked to clean the mill and to provide a fitting setting for the memorial service.

Also in May we celebrated a Girl Scout Gold Award Project completed by Katie Dickson. A kiosk sign was built and installed at the Keith Hayes Wildflower Meadow parallel to Columbia Trail and a trail map was created and printed to be available at the kiosk.



The Brownies enlisted the help of a few young men to plant this tree under the supervision of Bob Jenkinson.

In June, a Dogwood tree was planted at the K. Hayes Wildflower meadow. The tree was donated by Jenkinson Nursery to a local Brownie Troop.



In September we celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a Beer Tasting at the Schooley's Mountain Lodge featuring the Long Valley Pub and Brewery and Peapack Fine Wines. Keep an eye out for details on our 2012 Beer and Wine tasting to be held at the Lodge on September 22.



Carrie Swackhammer (left) receives her door prize from Karen Richards.



Cathy McVicker is ready for the beer tasting with her door prize.



Karen Ahman was also a door prize winner.



In October, troop leader Rebecca Lare and her Girl Scout Troop #478 planted a Sweet Gum Ball tree to finish their Journey requirements. They transplanted the tree from our nursery to a location along the path where we already had a post and deer fence.

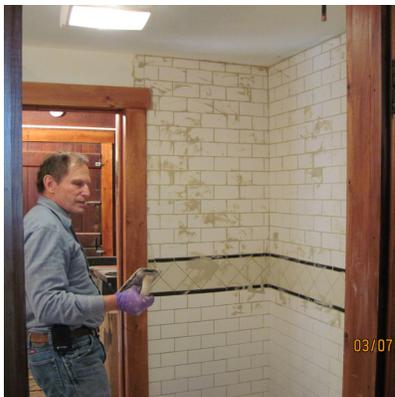


Throughout 2011, work continued at the LaTourette Mill and mostly involved the renovation of the apartment. Many volunteers worked on the project, but the majority of the work was performed by Chris and Ken Steffan and Tim Warrener. They deserve a huge round of applause.

The apartment was completed in time for our tenant to move in on October 1st. Along the way, other names appear in the volunteer log - Alison Goessling, Caryl Brackenridge and Charley Darchant. Our tenant also continues to help out with the upkeep of the apartment and the mill.



(top) Ken Steffan and (bottom) Tim Warrener and an electrician working on the mill apartment.



(left) Tim Warrener grouting, (right) the late Keith Hayes applying primer.



Photos courtesy of Chris Steffan

In December, we held our annual meeting and pot luck dinner. The new slate of officers was approved and Gregg Forsbrey became a trustee. The Mill was cleaned and decorated by volunteers for Christmas, and was a featured site on the Historical Society's House Tour.

2012 promises to be another busy year as we concentrate on stewarding our properties. We have much work to be completed on the mill, we have parks with trails to maintain and yet to build, and we have easements to be monitored. We will also continue partnering with other conservation groups to help preserve even more of Washington Township.

As you can see, all of our accomplishments are made possible by volunteers. I want to thank everyone for their support and congratulate you all for another successful year. Without your support we would not be celebrating 20 years of success. We hope you will continue to support us and look to our web site [www.wtlt.org](http://www.wtlt.org) for events and volunteer opportunities.

# The Perfect Gift

by Chris Steffan

This past fall, with Christmas in mind, we advertised "The Perfect Gift". The gift was a native Persimmon tree planted in the name of a person the donor wanted to honor. Seven trees will be planted in various locations throughout our park as a result of these 'gifts'. We wish to thank the donors for their support and recognize the people they wanted honored. The trees will be planted in their permanent locations soon.

Franklin & S. Jeanette Baker

Dr. Russell & Sue Gardner

Ms. Lorie Lambeck

Mrs. Kathleen Lederer

Mr. Len Lederer

Mr. George Roberto

Ms. June L Scheller

Angela Tutora



Source: Purdue University Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.



Our crew of volunteers at a previous tree planting.



Source: Government of Meghalaya Department of Agriculture.

## Washington Township Land Trust Annual Membership



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

**\*NEW Family memberships will receive a free tree!**

You have the option to:

- Receive a tree
- or**
- Donate a tree in your name for planting at Mill Park

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.*



**Washington Township Land Trust**  
PO Box 4  
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