

Hedgerows

Spring

2015 Published by the Washington Township Land Trust

Support Local Land Conservation

MISSION STATEMENT

The Washington Township Land Trust was organized to protect and preserve 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.

President—Jim Fitterer

Vice President - Kim Ball Kaiser

Treasurer—Carol Anthony

Secretary—Glynda Wehring

2014 Annual Meeting

The Washington Township Land Trust held its Annual Dinner Meeting December 12, 2014 at the Long Valley First Aid Squad building. Appetizers, dinner and dessert were pot-luck style and, as always, delicious. After everyone had time to socialize and enjoy their main courses, we held the Annual Meeting. President Tim Warrener gave his annual report which summarized the events of 2014. He awarded a certificate of appreciation to Caryl Brackenridge for her years of service and dedication to the Land Trust. Her name has been added to our plaque of notable people who have been so honored over the years.

Gregg Forsbrey, our Vice President for two years, decided he needed to step off the Board for personal reasons. Chris Steffan stepped down after 18 years as Treasurer; she felt it was time for someone else to take the financial reins. We brought on two new board members: Woody Lavinia and Carol Anthony. We welcome them and are appreciative of their interest in the Land Trust.

Our officers for 2015 will be: President, Jim Fitterer; Vice-President, Kim Ball Kaiser; Secretary, Glynda Wehring; Treasurer, Carol Anthony.



President's Report for 2014

The year 2014 has been a relatively quiet year except for the ongoing construction and boundary encroachment at 10 East Mill Road.

The mill requires repair, as always, in particular the intake arch and overlying beam which is deteriorating. Cost estimates were obtained and grant money and funding are being sought. The supporting areas under the stairways have been damaged as well and a plan for repairs and cost estimate was obtained. In the meantime, access has been limited and is no longer freely accessible to the public.

There is money set aside for windows which have not yet been restored. Window restorers have been investigated and the location for the windows and work involved has been reviewed.

The lease for the apartment was renewed.

Two properties were identified by NJCF for possible acquisition and one is still possible but is held up due to bankruptcy of the owner. Funds were pledged to NJCF by WTLT. Tim Warrener and Chris Steffan visited this property in the spring.

Jim Fitterer and Tim Warrener manned a booth at the Thursday Green Market last winter with some success, although mostly as PR, some money was raised and we sold quite a few History of Washington Township books for the Historical Society.

Our annual wine tasting brought in a little money and as always, was enjoyed by all.

A land stewardship program using hunters to keep an eye on illicit hunting, do trail maintenance, and generally look after the properties was explored. This program was set aside for now until questions as to general liability and the mechanics of such a program are thoroughly understood.

The Mill Pond Park trail was expanded and has been beautifully maintained. The plans for the Toll Brothers development were reviewed and we will need to keep a close eye on the landscaping they will be performing since it borders the park.

Caryl Brackenridge Recognition

Fundraising; trail creation & park maintenance; research of mill deeds, history and machines; historic preservation course at Drew University; organizing Street Fairs; writing grants (and follow-up reports) for mill restoration; development of open space map of Washington Township.

This list is a brief over-view of what Caryl Brackenridge did during her tenure on the Land Trust Board. She always volunteered her time and talents when something needed to be done and we thank her for that.

Caryl joined the Washington Township Land Trust Board in 1992 and has been an active member for 21 years. She has held various positions on the Board starting with Secretary in 1993. She followed that as Vice President 1994 – 1995, Pres. 1996 – 1999, Vice President 2000 – 2002, Secretary 2003 – 2009. Caryl stepped down from the Board at the end of 2013 but, true to her nature, she joined our Advisory Board and continues to advise us and supply the odd bits of information when needed.

We thank her for her years of commitment and dedication to the Land Trust .



The Benefits of Snow in the Garden

By Melody Rose (**melody**) January 17, 2015 from 'Dave's Garden'

Here in Kentucky, when snow is forecast, the obligatory trek to the grocery store to stock up on bread and milk begins. Even though the frozen stuff rarely lasts more than a couple of days, people strip the shelves bare just in case we're snowed in for weeks. We're not quite in the Deep South (where the milk and bread panic reaches a truly insane level) but snowfall is so infrequent that it is still a novelty. Most people do not realize that snow is a good thing and our gardens are better when it falls.

Snow is a natural insulator. It traps quite a bit of air and just like the goose down in your coat, it holds in heat. Some tests report that snowfall raises the soil temperature as much as 2 degrees F for every inch that is on the ground. It insulates the roots of your perennials and prevents heaving that comes from the ground freezing and thawing. It also provides necessary moisture for plants, especially evergreens, which require more winter moisture than dormant deciduous trees and shrubs.

Wheat farmers need snow to cover their just emerged winter wheat seedlings and insulate them from harsh winds as well. They've learned to leave stubble from the previous season in place to catch blowing snow and hold it on the fields. This is something we as gardeners can learn from when working our perennial beds. A little stubble and scruff serves to capture snowfall and hold it over the roots of our peonies, hostas and daylilies, acting as cozy blanket.

Snowfall means free fertilizer. Falling snow captures nitrogen from the air and deposits it on the ground and on evergreen leaves where it is absorbed by the plants, even dormant plants can absorb nitrogen from snow. Here in west Kentucky, it has long been said that the best time to seed your lawn with new grass is when you can scatter it over snow. This nitrogen (and trace amounts of ammonia) isn't present in a significant measure, however every little bit helps.

Warm winter days can trigger plants to break dormancy too early and when temperatures return to normal, they suffer as a result. A blanket of snow keeps these plants sleepy and snug until spring actually arrives. They wake at their appointed time and paint your garden with riots of color.

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Long Valley, NJ 07853



Annual Memberships

- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Family \$35
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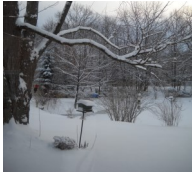
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 - ☐ Mill Restoration Work
 - ☐ Mill Park plantings/maintenance

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

One of the few down-sides of snow cover is that it provides a safe predator-free passageway for voles and other garden vermin. I've even taken to pulling the snow from the trunks of some of my favorite trees and shrubs, such as my Japanese maple and azaleas if it lingers more than a day or two. However, in my area, snow rarely lingers and the varmints aren't able to get comfortable. You should also knock extremely heavy snowfall from the branches of shrubs and small trees to prevent branch breakage if you can.

Winter is coming. 'Shouldn't strike fear in a gardener's heart. Unlike the residents of Westeros, it isn't going to bring snarks or grumpkins out of their lairs. We should enjoy the beauty of the snowfall and snuggle up with a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate and dream of spring while it works for us protecting and nourishing our gardens.



We at the Land Trust would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to Tim (Harrison) Warrener for his years of service to our organization. Tim was on the Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2014, serving as Vice-President in 1999 and 2012 and President in 2000, 2001, 2013 and 2014. His terms of office were enhanced by his quiet, calm leadership.

During his years on the Board, Tim was willing to help whenever and wherever he could be of service. He was a jack-of-all-trades at the mill, a laborer moving materials and removing debris, and a wood worker repairing structural components and restoring historic features. In Land Trust parks, Tim loaned the use of his truck and other equipment for clean-up and spent hours on park workdays doing whatever needed to be done.

All of us who served with Tim are grateful for his efforts and wish him a wonderful, well-earned retirement.



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