Are you interested in growing organic vegetables with a community of other gardeners? Then come out and plant your garden at the The Land Conservancy’s new Community Garden at South Branch Preserve in Mt. Olive Township! The Community Garden will be located at the Preserve’s main entrance along Wolfe Road, near its intersection with U.S. Route 46 East. Open to members of The Land Conservancy and residents of Mt. Olive Township, the Community Garden offers 70 plots. Each plot will be 10 feet by 10 feet.

Supported by a Sustainable Jersey grant, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey has been working closely with municipal officials and staff to ensure the Community Garden will open later this spring.

Novices and master gardeners alike are welcome -- no experience necessary. Bring your family, friends, or just yourself. Because the garden lies in a very sensitive watershed, no chemical fertilizers or pesticides will be allowed. Gardeners also will be responsible for providing their own seeds or plants and must use their own garden tools to tend their plots. The Land Conservancy will provide water and fencing against deer, woodchucks, and rabbits. The Community Garden is located in full sun.

Plots will be available on an annual basis (first-come - first-served) and will be managed by a volunteer Garden Committee comprised of gardeners. The Garden Committee will establish garden priorities, and adopt the rules for the operation of the garden. Gardeners are welcome to volunteer for this committee which will meet throughout the year.

If you would like to learn more about joining the Community Garden or Garden Committee, please contact Shari Johnson at sjohnson@tlc-nj.org or (973) 541-1010 x15 or visit our website, www.tlc-nj.org, for more information.

18 Acres Added to South Section of South Branch Preserve

Two additional properties totaling eighteen acres have been added to The Land Conservancy’s South Branch Preserve in Mt. Olive Township. These properties adjoin the South Section of the Preserve located at the end of Shop Lane and its intersection with River Road in the Township. The South Branch Preserve now totals 390 acres.

(Continued on page 3...)

Does the winter’s cold have you longing for summer? Now that the holidays are over, are you thinking about getting back out into the great outdoors on your bike in warmer weather? We have a wonderful way for you to kick off the summer and make a difference in your community. The Land Conservancy is pleased to announce our upcoming second annual Pedal for Preservation Bike Ride Saturday, June 15, 2013. Pedal for Preservation is a family friendly, off-road bike ride geared to cyclists of all biking abilities along the Columbia Trail, a rail to trail route that traverses Morris and Hunterdon Counties. The Columbia Trail has been called one of the most beautiful rides in New Jersey. The day will begin and end at West Morris Central High School in Chester and include good food, family friendly fun, and entertainment. Proceeds from the ride will support the work of The Land Conservancy to preserve the beautiful natural lands and special places that we all call home throughout New Jersey. For more information, visit our website, www.tlc-nj.org, or contact Rhonda VanAntwerp at rvanantwerp@tlc-nj.org or (973) 541-1010 x24.
One of our most exciting projects is our plan to open a new community garden on our South Branch Preserve in Mount Olive. Look for more information about this project and how you can get involved in early spring. The Conservancy will also be offering more hikes and naturalist presentations to some of the more remote properties we have preserved and we will be hosting tours of our restoration sites. We want people to see firsthand the unique phase of work that has been accomplished restoring some remarkable sites that many had feared were lost to development forever.

In terms of our Special Events, we are expanding both our Pedal for Preservation bike event and Gray Cup Golf Classic. For Pedal for Preservation, we have increased our commitment to increase the number of riders this year so that more of you can enjoy the magnificent Columbia Trail and experience the nearby lands that The Conservancy has helped to preserve. The volunteers who help run The Gray Cup have committed to getting more people out on the links at Batbytown Golf Club at Crystal Springs to raise money for our conservation work. We would love to have you join us at either of these events!

Lastly, for those who can’t join us outdoors, we are continuing to enhance and upgrade our virtual presence. We are in the process of redesigning our website, working to make it more interactive and provide more current information. We have been steadily increasing our Social Media presence to interact with you in “real time” and keep you informed of ways you can make an immediate impact on local issues around land preservation and conservation. “Like” us on Face Book, connect with us on LinkedIn, and bookmark our website. If you haven’t yet, please register for our e-newsletter (you can register on our home page) to receive information about our recent happenings.

Our vision for 2013 is to transform the many different ideas, accomplishments, and enthusiasm of the people who comprise The Land Conservancy family into a more cohesive community. We want you to see and fully understand the unique phase of work that has been accomplished, and what we hope to achieve in the future! We promise you will have more fun supporting The Land Conservancy and have plenty of chances to enjoy the special places we call home.

In 2013, our commitment to our members and donors is to do a better job of sharing these experiences with you, the people who make all of our work possible. We will be offering variety of “hands on” experiences - in the great outdoors, online and at our Wild Acres Headquarters - focusing on heightening people’s understanding and enjoyment of The Conservancy’s work.

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, for their participation in these projects. In addition, we wish to recognize landowners Andy Mesch and Gail Smith as well as 2,000 Pachysandra plants along McCarver Parks’ edge. Partners for Parks is funded in part by our corporate sponsors. Thank you to our corporate sponsors for our fall 2012 season: BASF, Novartis, United Water, and PSEG and thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in projects. Plans are underway for our 2013 spring season. For more information about how to get your corporation involved contact Barbara McCluskey at bmccleskey@tlc-nj.org or (973) 541-1010 x14.

“Thank you! Your contribution is tax deductible and can be made online at www.tlc-nj.org or mailed to: The Land Conservancy of New Jersey | 19 Boonton Avenue | Boonton, NJ 07005 (973) 541-1010 fax (973) 541-1131 www.tlc-nj.org
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

(October 2012- December 2012)

Foundations:
- Bassett Foundation
- Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- The Hyde and Watson Foundation
- The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
- Land Trust Alliance
- National Forest Foundation
- Victoria Foundation, Inc.

Honor Gifts:
- In Honor of Sally Epstein
  Russ Buchanan
  David Epstein
  Roberta Dyrsten
  Dennis Krumholz

- In Honor of Gray & Mollie Rogers:
  Mr. & Mrs. Frank Edwards

- In Honor of Sheila Lustbader
  Mr. & Mrs. David Lustbader

Memorial Gifts:
- In Memory of Rosalie Lavinthal
  Mr. & Mrs. Arnon Amir
  Roberta Dyrsten
  David Epstein

- In Memory of Herb Futoran
  Mr. & Mrs. David Lustbader

Volunteers:
- Peter Laue
- Ann Weissenburger
- Christie Whitehouse
- Joyce Wirth
- Russ Buchanan
- David Epstein
- Roberta Dyrsten
- Dennis Krumholz

Volunteer Corner

- Technology Volunteer - We are seeking a professional volunteer with Intermediate to Advanced Technology skills in PC software and programming.

- Volunteer Photographer - We are seeking a volunteer photographer to capture the picturesque beauty of our preserved properties and memorable moments at our fundraising events. These photos will be used in our print, website, and electronic media.

If either of these positions interest you please contact Barbara McCloskey for additional details at bmccoloskey@tlc-nj.org or (973) 541-1010 ext 14. We could use your assistance and look forward to hearing from you!

Conservancy Needs

- Art portfolio cases for large map boards up to 30”x40”
- Cordless Screwdriver
- Desk lamps
- Small coffee table lamps
- Desktop Computer Speakers with on/off switch
- Digital Camera

- Extension cords/surge protectors
- Flatware: a set of forks, knives, and spoons
- Heavy Duty Paper Shredder
- IPad or Tablet
- Mini Fridge with Freezer

If you would like to donate any of the above items please contact Shari for more information at sjohnson@tlc-nj.org or 973-541-1010 x15. Thank you!