The Sourland Conservancy At Work

In its ongoing efforts to protect the Sourlands and secure the health of the Sourland forest, the Sourland Conservancy is currently working on several projects and initiatives:

1. Sourlands Deer Management Symposium. The purpose of this Sourland Conservancy-sponsored symposium is to educate residents about responsible hunting in the Sourlands. The event will consist of presentations on the negative impacts to the ecology of the Sourlands caused by the overpopulation of white-tailed deer, basic hunting rules and regulations, and quality deer management in the Sourlands. Landowners will receive information about hunting on their properties and have an opportunity to meet interested hunters. Presenters include, Michael Van Clef, PhD. (Ecological Solutions, LLC), Cindy Kuenstner (Senior Wildlife Biologist, NJ Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Jared Rosenbaum (Owner of Wild Ridge Plants and Plant Stewardship Index Coordinator at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve), Cliff Wilson (President of the Sourland Conservancy). This event will take place on Thursday, November 21, 2013 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Otto Kaufman Community Center, 356 Skillman Road, Skillman, NJ. Further information about the event and registration will be available soon on our website, Facebook page and upcoming email blasts. Please see additional details about the Symposium in this issue of the newsletter.

2. Stewardship Recognition Program for Sourland Residents. This past summer, college interns from Rider University worked with the Sourland Conservancy’s Executive Director, Caroline Katmann, to design a stewardship program to educate residents about good stewardship practices and to reward them for their stewardship efforts and accomplishments. Based on “Living in the Sourlands: A Guide For Responsible Stewardship,” (produced by the Sourland Conservancy and available to every resident of the Sourlands), this program presents specific “how-to” steps for residents who would like to “Save the Sourlands” starting with their own backyards! Checklists, backyard stewardship actions ranging from very simple to more complex, lists of resources and attractive incentives are all of part of this exciting program, which the Sourland Conservancy plans to make available to all Sourlands residents in 2014.

3. Hillsborough Open Space Ballot Question. Hillsborough Township voters are being asked to decide whether to divert Open Space funds to other, unspecified projects. The Sourland Conservancy strongly opposes this measure and encourages its members to join the Vote No campaign.

There remain hundreds of unpreserved, undeveloped Sourland properties in Hillsborough, amounting to thousands of acres. This land must not be allowed to fall into the hands of developers just as the housing market is heating up. Rather, this is a great time to be preserving land, while the prices are still relatively low.

Open Space preservation is an excellent investment for taxpayers. It is important from an environmental perspective, and also for the recreational opportunities it creates such as hiking, cycling and horseback riding. Financially, it prevents the increases in school taxes that come with all new residential development, saving taxpayers far more than the cost of the land.

Although the ballot question says the Township may divert “up to 20%” of Open Space revenue to other projects, the proposal would actually take nearly half the money available for new preservation, because much of Hillsborough’s Open Space revenue is earmarked to repay debt on previously preserved land.

The Sourland Conservancy is working with Friends of Hillsborough Open Space, a fledgling non-profit organization, to defeat the ballot question. For more info, visit www.facebook.com/FOHOSNJ

2013 Candidates’ Questionnaire
By Andrea Bonette

(The Sourland Conservancy sent the following letter and questionnaire to the candidates for office in the November 5th election, in the Sourland municipalities. The candidates’ responses, if received, will be available on our website, www.sourland.org, after the first week in October. We will also publish on our website the names of the candidates who did not respond.)

The Sourland Conservancy is actively involved in supporting five Townships in their efforts to preserve open space and develop protective ordinances and policies for the portions of their towns that lie within the Sourland Mountain region. As you probably know, the Sourlands are quite different, environmentally speaking, than the surrounding lands. We have a great deal of information about the special character of the Sourlands on our website, www.sourland.org. We also have published several books, a map, a stewardship handbook mailed to every Sourland household, and a semi-annual newsletter.

We hope that you will take a few moments to respond to the questionnaire below. So that our members may know where all our municipal (five townships) candidates stand on the issues of significance to the Sourlands, we will publish our questions and all municipal candidates’ names in our fall 2013 issue of the Sourlands Journal newsletter, and we will direct our members to look on our website for your responses. Please send them to me at ckatmann@sourland.org or by mail to 83 Princeton Ave., Suite 1A, Hopewell, NJ 08525-2020. I will make sure that every response received is published on the Sourland Conservancy website unedited (as long as each answer does not exceed roughly 150 words).

Questions:
1. With regard to the county and municipal Open Space dedicated taxes approved by voters, do you believe that these funds should be expended solely and specifically for the purchase of development rights and fee simple land; or would you support allowing a percentage of those funds to be allocated to maintenance and development of existing open space lands?

Continued on page 4.
Meeting information
Sourland Conservancy trustee’s meetings are held on the first Monday of even months at the train station in Hopewell Boro. You are warmly invited.

Executive Director
Caroline Katmann, Hillsborough Twp.
director@sourland.org
908 428-4216

Officers
President: Cliff Wilson, Montgomery Twp.
Vice President: Jennifer Bryson, Hillsborough Twp.
Treasurer: Tom Seessel, Hopewell Twp.
Secretary: Tom Kilbourne, Hopewell Twp.

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Andrea Bonette, East Amwell Twp.
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Marian Fenwick, Hillsborough Twp.
Michael Heffler, Lambertville
Marcia Maguire, Hopewell Boro
Jared Rosenbaum, Hillsborough Twp.
Patricia Sziber, Hopewell Twp.
Peg Van Patton, Hillsborough Twp.

Honorary Trustees
Joel Coyne
Jerry Haimowitz
Judy Jengo
Scott & Hella McVay
Chris Sturm

Message from the President

Turn and face the strange; changes they are a comin’:
• In June, following months of brainstorming and input from all corners, our Board of Trustees voted to change the name of our organization to Sourland Conservancy. While I still occasionally let slip “Sourland Planning Council”, I am delighted that we have chosen a new name that captures the essence of our work. We are now using the new name almost exclusively, though you may still occasionally see the “Sourland Planning Council” on some printed material.
• By the time you receive this newsletter, our new web site should be up and running. Our Education and Outreach committee has spent months planning, organizing, writing, editing, choosing photos, etc. The result is a handsome site that is clean and well organized. Please check it out at www.sourland.org.
• The Sourland Conservancy has a new office and, along with it, a new permanent address:
  83 Princeton Ave. Suite 1A
  Hopewell, NJ 08525
  The office was donated by Tom Kilbourne, Secretary of the Sourland Conservancy. For now, the office will not be regularly staffed, but will be used for smaller meetings and as a central repository for files and materials. All mail should be directed to the new address.
  The Sourland Music Festival and the Sourland Spectacular bicycle rally were both highly successful and enjoyable events. The Music Festival was held on the rain date, so attendance suffered a bit, but perfect weather for the bicycle rally brought out a bumper crop of riders. These events raise money for our organization, help us raise awareness about the Sourlands, and contribute to the culture and sense of community of the Sourland region. Thanks to our sponsors and the many volunteers who make these events possible!

The Tenth Annual Sourland Music Festival

Despite moving to the rain date on Sunday, July 21st, the Tenth Annual Sourland Music Festival was a magical evening for all. The festival was very well attended by approximately 500 adults, children and dogs! The music was fantastic, the food delicious, and the weather cooperated with a magnificent sunset over Clover Hill.
  This year’s musicians included: Eric Steckel, Ten Foot Tall, Dany May, Tony Cimorosi, Stepping Stone, John Beacher and Brooke Shive and the 45s.
  The Sourland Conservancy would like to thank all of the volunteers at the Music Festival who worked so hard to do everything from acquiring sponsors to parking cars. A special cheer goes out to Tom Kilbourne the Director of the Sourland Music Festival since its inception and his 2013 Festival assistant, Elisabeth Teixeira. The Sourland Conservancy would also like to express its appreciation to James Popik, the Music Director of the Sourland Music Festival who has worked every year since the first Sourland Music Fest to make sure that the Festival features the best music in the region.
  The generous support of the Music Festival sponsors and vendors is also greatly appreciated. These include Union Line Garage, 1st Constitution Bank, Weidel Realtors, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Hopewell Valley Bank, ASIS, Valley Oil Company, Campion Tire, Koko Fit Club, Lear S Pannepacker, CPA, Hand & Stone, Hopewell Boro Auto Repair, NEC Wine & Liquors, Daniel Saporito DMD, Gutterman! Mark Schulman Chiropractic, Sweetly Spirited Cupcakes, B & K Business Group, Nomad Pizza, Swallow Hill Farm and Raritan Valley Community College.

Net proceeds from the Music Festival event go to the Sourland Conservancy’s efforts to advocate and educate for the protection of the Sourland region.
  The Sourland Conservancy would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy a beautiful, musical evening in the Sourlands. We hope to see you again next year at the Eleventh Annual Sourland Music Festival!
Every tree in the only unlogged forest in Scotland is over 300 years old, according to Richard Preston’s book The Wild Trees (April 2007). About 300 years ago wolves were exterminated in Scotland and since then human hunters aren’t able to control the deer population. The deer eat all the seedlings before they can develop into trees.

A healthy forest has an understory that is dense with young trees, shrubs and native plants. When you cycle around the Sourlands and the surrounding area you will find an occasional healthy understory in a forest. You will also find many forested areas that have few if any saplings, and the dominant shrubs are invasive species like Multiflora rose and Japanese stilt grass. Forests with healthy understories are those where deer hunters successfully control the deer population.

We can’t blame the deer for this situation. Humans have killed off all of the deer’s local predators. About a hundred years ago we also almost killed off the deer. Now there are laws that protect the deer from being overhunted. But there are no laws that protect the forest from being overgrazed.

When a forest is overgrazed a number of things happen - none of them are good. When storms come through trees get knocked down and new ones don’t take their place. This lets more light into the forest floor, which is normally a good thing except invasive species benefit more than natives. The invasive species benefit because deer don’t eat them. Deer like native plants – particularly young ones. Birds that migrate from South and Central America looking for food have less to eat because many of the native insects don’t eat the invasive species. With diminishing food supply, songbirds start to disappear.

Native plants also provide food and shelter for native reptiles and amphibians. All the little turtles, salamanders, toads and friendly creatures that you rarely see anywhere else all breed in the forest. Without the trees and native shrubs they also start to disappear.

One small creature that is prospering, unfortunately, is the deer tick. The other creature you don’t often see in the woods in the summer is people. The ticks are winning that battle thanks to their carriers, the deer.

Now when you look into the forest and notice whether it has a healthy understory, one dense enough with saplings and native shrubs that it would be difficult to walk through, you’ll also see what else is and isn’t there. A sparse understory isn’t just bare of young trees; it is no longer a good habitat for songbirds, diverse native wild life, and native plants and shrubs. It also poses ticklish dangers for people.

What can we do? Two things can help. First, we can plant more young native trees. Trees need to be planted in areas that are enclosed with deer fencing or protected so deer can’t eat them while they’re young. Planting more trees has a lot of benefits since trees are the lungs of the world and soak up carbon dioxide from the air providing some deterrent to climate change. More trees create a more vibrant understory and a richer environment for the native shrubs and plants to grow with the resulting better environment for birds, small creatures and people.

Second, we can enable hunters to keep the deer population at a level that will sustain the forests. There is a strong case to be made that deer meat is local, organic, free range and tasty. If we can find ways to use deer meat as part of the local diet benefits include less Lyme disease and fewer car accidents.

That’s the understory.
John Brunner, a former Executive Director of the Sourland Conservancy, recently sent me a copy of an article about the Sourland Mountain region from the NY Times, dated December 27, 1880. Yes, 1880! John found the article five years ago while doing some research on African American history. While I understand that the article reflects an 1880’s perspective on race and marriage, I find much of the article to be quite offensive. Yet I cannot help my fascination with the language and sentiments of the time. This article also shows that although many perspectives have changed over the past 130 years, some things have not. The theme of ‘refuge’ that runs through this article’s story of the first Sourland settlers, resonates in 2013! The Sourland Conservancy’s rally cry, “Save the Sourlands,” is based on its conviction that the Sourland region should be preserved and protected because it is a place of refuge for animals, plants and people.

The title: “Barbarism in New Jersey” refers to racial intermarriage in the Sourland region. “Legends As to How the Mountain Became Populated” is part of the subtitle. Hopewell, N.J. Dec. 27 – the place and date. The copyright reads, “The New York Times, Jan. 2, 1880, Copyright © The New York Times.” Here is an excerpt; see if you can visualize the Mountain and the roads you travel every day:

“If the traveler who speeds his way from New York to Philadelphia or Trenton along the Bound Brook routes will look out of the window on the right side of the car after leaving Skillman Station, he will observe for seven miles a long line of hills. In places, these hills slope almost to the track, while again they terminate half a mile distant. This range is called the Sourland Mountain. The mountain extends for about 15 miles from Neshanic, in Somerset County, to Lambertville along the Delaware. In one place, it is the dividing line between Mercer and Hunterdon Counties, and it is just in this particular portion that its characteristics are mostly plainly discernible. A tramp from this little village of Hopewell, over and along the side of the mountain, is by no means desirable at this time of year, but nevertheless it provides a good opportunity for investigation. There are two roads principally traveled, the one leading from here to Wertselle and the other starting at Blawenburg and terminating near Neshanic. Taking the Wertselle Road gives one the best chance to examine the modes of life peculiar to the people of this section. The people and their manners are what have attracted observation to Sourland.”

The following excerpt describes views uninterrupted by development and air pollution (and probably trees, due to excessive logging practices at the time):

“When the summit of the mountain is attained the scene assumes a very picturesque aspect. Off in the distance are seen the towns of Monmouth County dimly appearing close to the horizon. Nearer by lies Princeton, with the towers of the Scientific Building and Nassau Hall plainly visible. Pennington, Trenton, Flemington and Clinton are discerned more or less distinctly.”

Ever wonder how or when the Sourlands were settled? Here is the version put forth in this article: “A study of the history of the Mountain as gleaned in the records of the offices of the Clerks of Mercer, Hunterdon, and Somerset, and as picked up in conversation with the old settlers, shows that a mulatto named Stives, who did service in the War for Independence, married an Indian maiden and became the pioneer of the region. The story is unique enough to tell. Stives was a slave in Virginia having been raised by one of the early colonial families. As a youngster he had accompanied Washington when he joined Braddock and fell into the treachereous ambush of the French and Indians. Escaping from the peril and while homeward bent the soldiers captured an Indian chieftain who had been the cause of many an Englishman’s death. Among the attendants of the chieftain were a squaw and her infant daughter, a girl about six months old. One of the soldiers became interested in these two females and obtained permission to take them home with him. The soldier was the owner of Stives, and hence the Indian girl and Stives lived on the same plantation. As the years rolled by, and the two grew up, the mulatto grew to love the dusky maiden, and she returned his affection. Their marriage was forbidden by the Virginians, however, and so they were compelled to keep secret their hopes and plans. The war broke out, and Stives was forced to accompany his master’s company. They were under Washington and crossed the Delaware with him on that eventful winter night. While the campaign was being waged around Princeton and Trenton, Stives was sent out foraging, and one day in his expeditions, his eyes beheld the long range of hills, bleak and uninhabited. He vowed he would run away with his sweet-heart, as soon as he returned to Virginia, and, if possible, find this mountain. The war came to an end with the surrender of Cornwallis and Stives again joined his fair Pocahontas. He obtained permission on account of his bravery in the war to come to the North again. The Indian girl stole away with him, and, after a series of perils, they finally settled on Sourland Mountain, where they built a hut and founded a colony, which still remains.”

There is no mention of this romantic story in T.J. Luce’s “New Jersey’s Sourland Mountain,” (Sourland Planning Council, 2001). Luce mentions that the “Sourland Mountain was the territory of the Unami.” The Unami were one of the two groups of Lenape Indians. Luce also tells the story of the Stout Family, the first Europeans to settle in the area.

But I prefer the story of the courageous slave and the captured Indian girl who fell in love and found refuge in the Sourlands. It fits with my view of the Sourlands as my personal refuge. And it fits with the Sourland Conservancy’s view of the Sourlands as a vital regional resource in the core of America’s most densely populated state, worthy of protection because it is a place of refuge for animals, plants and people.

Continued from page 1.

2. Do you feel the current level of Open Space funding in your county or municipality should (a) be increased; (b) stay the same; or (c) be decreased? How is this funding derived - from an Open Space tax, from your capital funds, or other?

3. Briefly describe your attitude and past involvement with the preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, natural resources, and places of historical significance in your Township.

4. The current overpopulation of white-tail deer poses a serious threat to the Sourland ecosystem. We are in the process of developing a site-specific deer management plan. Can you support such a plan, and, if so, what are the important issues we should consider?

In order to make our information available to our membership in advance of the November 5 elections, we hope to receive your responses by Tuesday, October 1, or very soon thereafter.
REGULAR FEATURE

On the Mountain
Pat Sziber

Profile of Creatures & Features We Protect

~ Vulture Culture ~

Among the many possible descriptive terms for vultures, perhaps the alliterative one chosen by Canadian science writer Wayne Grady for the title of his 1997 book conjures the greatest degree of revulsion: *Vulture, Nature’s Ghastly Gourmet*. For many, this pretty much sums up the image of the bald-headed birds we see clustered around road-killed carcasses. “Nature’s cleanup crew” has a more positive ring to it. Vultures can be a pretty gruesome sight on the ground, scary and Halloween-ish perched in a bare tree. But there is scarcely a more graceful sight than a large flock of vultures coasting across the sky as they search for a place to roost for the night, with wings motionless, rocking gently in silence. While myths persist about vultures carrying off live lambs and stealing babies, with the exception of a very few documented instances, they are exclusively scavengers—opportunistic beneficiaries of the work of predators and automobiles.

There are seven vulture species in the New World, including the California and Andean condors. Only two species occur in the eastern United States, including the Sourlands, the familiar red-headed Turkey Vulture with its 6-foot wingspan and the slightly more compact Black Vulture with a 5-foot span. While the Turkey Vulture’s range extends into Canada, the Black Vulture is a more southern species, ranging into New York State. Though only populations in the northern parts of their respective ranges migrate with the seasons, they are nonetheless protected as migratory birds.

The two species are often seen roosting or feeding together. Unlike most birds, both have a highly developed sense of smell which helps them locate and evaluate food sources. It may seem strange that they thrive on putrid food that could kill other animals. They owe this advantage to the fact that their digestive systems are extremely acidic, which destroys harmful bacteria.

Both species nest in the Sourlands. They do not build nests but either lay their eggs on bare ground or in abandoned buildings, favoring rocky areas and dark recesses. There were two Black Vulture nests in collapsing barns on Baldpate Mountain this past spring. Vulture activity in the area suggests that many more are taking advantage of remote trackless areas of the Sourlands to rear their young. The birds are far more conspicuous in the non-breeding season, when they gather by the dozens to roost, hissing and grunting at each other as they jostle for the best spot, often to the considerable displeasure of their human neighbors. They do have an odor, their white droppings can be a mess and, if you get too close and startle them—yes—they may vomit on you.

Communal roosting provides the benefit of mutual body heat. Large seasonal roosts are a familiar element in the twilight landscape of Hopewell, Lambertville, Titusville and other Sourland areas.

Vultures do have their place in nature. And, as author Grady states in his book, “Ugliness is in the eye of the beholder; no organism is intrinsically ugly or beautiful, useful or harmful, valuable or dispensable.”

THE POET’S CORNER

David B. Ward

More than once, the Sourlands Journal has featured poems by the late, Belle Mead poet Herman M. Ward (for poems and a short biography see our Spring 2012 issue). Dr. Ward was born in Jersey City, received his bachelor’s degree from Montclair State College and his Ph.D. in English literature and language from Princeton University in 1940. He has written several books of poetry. Dr. Ward died in 2006 at the age of 91. The Sourland Conservancy was very pleased to receive the following poems written by the son of Herman and Marjorie Ward, David B. Ward, which were recently sent to us by Mrs. Ward with her son’s permission to publish in our newsletter. We hope that you enjoy the little taste of winter that these poems bring to our pages.

My Garden Sleeping
Under a blanket of snow
Dreaming of flowers

Sweet sugar snow
Sifting over garden
Brown earth dusted white

With snow plastering
garden rails and fences
missing not a thing
Richard Preston is one of the distinguished artists living in the Sourland region. He is a bestselling author who has written books about infectious disease, bioterrorism, redwoods, astronomy and other subjects and recently completed Michael Crichton’s unfinished novel, *Micro*, published by Harper-Collins.

I recently read and was captivated by Richard’s books, *The Wild Trees*, about the world’s tallest trees, and *First Light*, about the astronomers who changed our understanding about the vastness of the universe.

There is an undiscovered world in the canopies of the redwoods. Large trees can grow out of 200+ foot high branches. The ecosystem of the canopy produces enough fertilizer to enable trees and shrubs to grow; it has caves and shelters animals that have never seen, and don’t fear, humans. The story of the driven, committed people who explore this uncharted world is inspirational. There’s even a story about how the two main characters rather acrobatically celebrated their honeymoon in the redwood canopy. The *Wild Trees* expands both our knowledge and our sense of wonder about the Earth.

Moving from life on Earth to the vastness of space is a big leap. Ironically, while the researchers in *The Wild Trees* had to scale great heights to make their discoveries, the discoveries about the universe occurred while the astronomers’ feet were firmly on the ground. Their minds and imaginations were in the skies. The Hale, located on Mount Palomar in California, is the world’s largest telescope. The Hale Telescope enables astronomers to see the far reaches of space and way back in time. But looking in the telescope wasn’t enough for these guys. They had to invent sophisticated, scrap part gadgets that tied the telescope to computers and video so they could see even further out and further back. Their search encountered phenomena that had never been seen before. With this new information they were able to see past their own and the scientific communities’ established views and realize that the universe was far larger than anyone had ever imagined. New information created insights that would disrupt, and then change, firmly held assumptions and expand our understanding of outer space.

In our conversation we discussed the worlds of tall trees, the vast universe, and finally came back to a discussion about open space in the Sourlands. Richard told me about a situation where new information disrupted and changed his neighbor’s firmly held assumptions and expanded his understanding of open space.

Richard and his family have lived in Hopewell for the past 13 years. At the time, his neighbor was strongly considering a bid from a large developer to turn his farm into a high-density development. Richard and his wife, Michelle, along with a local attorney, provided new information about how much of the sale price you keep when you sell your property compared with the financial terms of preserving the land as open space. This financial information, along with new information about ways to parcel the land, convinced the neighbor he could attain both his desire to keep this area beautiful for future generations and his family’s financial requirements. The neighbor kept the farm, preserved the land, and met the financial needs of his family. New information disrupted prior assumptions, changed his view of selling his farm, and created a new understanding.

Our understanding of what appears to be a truth can change, based upon additional information, and re-interpretation but what we feel during dramatic moments remains vibrant in our memory.

Richard noted how fiction writers count on a suspension of disbelief. Non-fiction, on the other hand, is expected to contain nothing but the truth. That can be tricky when different people viewing the same event often come away seeing very different things. Several films have explored this premise and all detective novels are based upon the detective being able to see things that everyone else has missed.

Richard checks and double checks every key point he writes about, often multiple times. He hires fact checkers to check his work, and has re-written pieces for *The New Yorker* when the story required factual changes. While people can see an event differently, during a dramatic moment in our life, Richard stressed, we always remember exactly how we feel. That dramatic feeling, whether from shattering assumptions about the size of the universe, discovering an uncharted world among the tallest trees, or changing your life by discovering you can achieve your goals and preserve your family’s land, is seminal to grasping our potential as human beings and writing good stories.

Richard’s work can also expand our perspective about the Sourlands. In *The Wild Trees* there’s a section on the only unlogged forest in Scotland. All of the trees in this forest are over 300 years old. About 300 years ago the wolves were exterminated from Scotland and the deer have eaten all the saplings and young tree sprouts. This spectacular forest is unhealthy and unsustainable. This deer problem might sound familiar. It is happening right here in the Sourlands. We are losing the understory of our forests due to the overpopulation of deer. The Sourland Conservancy and other open space organizations are working with local municipalities and hunters to help keep our forests healthy.

My meeting with Richard Preston contained nothing but the truth, whether in the redwood forests of California, scanning across the universe or right here in the Sourlands. I hope you’ll enjoy reading his books as much as I have.

For more information on Richard Preston see his website: http://richardpreston.net/
**Sourland Conservancy Video Project**

The Sourland Conservancy is working on a video project to spread the word about the beauty and need to preserve the Sourlands. Our goal is to create a 20-25 minute documentary about the Sourlands that captivates, educates, and inspires. We will develop a story concept that revolves around the aesthetic beauty of the environment and the intrinsic value it has as a biological and psychological refuge. Above all else, the film intends to access the most fundamental human emotions so that the audience feels compelled to take action in whatever way they can.

We have selected Empty Bucket Studios of Lambertville, NJ as our video producer. You can see examples of Empty Bucket Studios work at: www.emptybucketstudios.com

The Sourland Conservancy would like to express its gratitude to those who have already made donations toward the production of this film. If you would like to support this project to educate and inspire action for the preservation and protection of the Sourlands, please make your tax deductible contribution at www.sourland.org today.

We anticipate the video to be available late January 2014.

**Sourlands: A Threatened Treasure**

**Bus Tour of the Eastern Sourland Mountain Region**

*Saturday, October 26th - 9:30 a.m. to noon*

Take a ride with the Sourland Conservancy to experience the magic and rich history of the Sourlands, an unspoiled landscape of forested ridges, pastoral farms, and a special refuge for heroes, patriots, artists and, yes, even ghosts!

Enjoy New England-like fall colors without a weekend-long trip. Visit Highfields, the famed Lindbergh home. Learn the legends and lore of your own backyard paradise, home to numerous unique animals and plants. Learn about the Sourland Mountain environment and heritage -- and how to protect this special place for future generations.

Saturday, October 26th from 9:30 a.m. to noon (Check in begins at 9:00 a.m.)

Meet at Otto Kaufman Community Center, 356 Skillman Rd. Skillman, NJ.

Please register and pay in advance at www.sourland.org/tour.

$20.00 (Members)
$25.00 (Non-members. Includes a six-month free trial membership.

For more information, please call Marcia Maguire at 609-466-0701

**Sourland Spectacular**

This year’s Sourland Spectacular was aptly named! The warm, crisp weather could not have been better. There were over 550 cyclists riding the four routes. The feedback so far has focused on how much the participants enjoyed the routes, the organization of registration, road markings and rest stops, and the food.

The four routes were 23, 35, 50 and 62 (metric century) miles. The routes took cyclists through the prettiest roads in the Sourlands and provided rest stops where they could get water and healthy snacks. Lunch, after the ride, included a pizza from Nomad Pizza or More than Q’s BBQ sandwiches followed by brownie sundaes. One of our local sponsors, bai, provided sugar-free fruit flavored drinks.

Net proceeds from the Sourland Spectacular event go to the Sourland Conservancy’s efforts to advocate and educate for the protection of the Sourland region, the largest contiguous forest between NYC and Philadelphia. The cyclists went past some of the remarkable features of the Sourlands including large rock formations, beautiful forests, the Lindbergh estate, the cave where John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, hid from the British during the Revolutionary War, and preserved farmland.

The Sourland Conservancy would like to thank all the cycling participants, the volunteers, and the local towns that made this event so successful this year. We want to send a special thanks to our sponsors, bai, 1st Constitution Bank, ASIS, and Harlingen Veterinary Clinic for their support. To the cyclists, we look forward to seeing you again next year!
Deer Management in the Sourlands

(A Sourland Conservancy-sponsored symposium to educate residents about responsible hunting in the Sourlands)

When: Thursday, November 21, 2013; 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Where: Otto Kaufman Community Center
356 Skillman Road
Skillman, NJ

You should attend if you:
• are concerned about the negative impacts on the Sourland forest caused by the overpopulation of white tailed deer
• want to learn how quality deer management through responsible hunting will protect the Sourland forest
• are a hunter looking for properties to hunt in the Sourlands
• own land in the Sourlands and would like information about hunting on your property
• would like to become informed about basic hunting rules and regulations

Our stellar presenters include:
• Michael Van Clef, PhD - Ecological Solutions, LLC. Mike has a Ph.D. in ecology from Rutgers University and over twenty years of experience involving stewardship of natural resources, ecological research, and policy.
• Cindy Kuenstner - Senior Wildlife Biologist, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.
• Jared Rosenbaum - Naturalist; Proprietor of Wild Ridge Plants in Hillsborough, NJ; Plant Stewardship Index Coordinator at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA.
• Cliff Wilson - President of the Sourland Conservancy.

The presenters will participate in a Q & A panel discussion following the presentations.

The evening will close with refreshments and time for socializing.

Further information about the event and registration will be available soon, in future email blasts, on our website and on Facebook.

First Train Station Series a Big Hit!

The Sourland Conservancy’s first Train Station Series was a huge success due to the expertise and passion of our speakers who volunteered to help advance our Education and Outreach Program. Many thanks to Sharyn Magee (Birds of the Sourlands), Tracy Carluccio (Natural Gas Pipelines), Cliff Wilson (Comprehensive Deer Management in the Sourlands), Tadhgh Rainey (Lyme Disease), Andrea Bonette (Sourland History and Geology), Michael Heffler (Author of “Climbing Through Life”), Kevin Burkman (Open Space Map of the Sourlands), Judy Jengo (Film: “Birders: The Central Park Effect”), Jared Rosenbaum (Native Landscapes and Deer), and Patricia Flanagan (Swallow Hill Farm).

All of these events, except for the Swallow Hill Farm Field Trip, were lectures presented at the Hopewell Train Station at One Railroad Place in Hopewell Borough.

For those of you who participated, thanks for being a part of our first Train Station Series. We hope your experience was educational and enjoyable. Please give us your feedback and also share your suggestions for future topics (director@sourland.org). For those of you who were unable to attend this time around, please join us next year! Look for announcements about next year’s Train Station Series on our website, Facebook, and eNewsletter.
Volunteer Recognition and Round-Up!

The Sourland Conservancy would like to express its sincere gratitude to all of the dedicated volunteers who have given of their time and expertise this past spring and summer. We know that our work to protect the Sourland Mountain region’s ecology, history and special character would be much more difficult, if not impossible, without your support.

Volunteers at the Tenth Annual Sourland Music Festival include Jim Andrews, Ben Burghardt, Reed Chapman, Jim Heidere, Eric Hendrickson, John Jegla, Erica Johannsen, Tim Johnson, Jason Dallas and Elisabeth Teixeira. A special thank you to Jim Popik for acquiring and organizing the wonderful musicians and bands that bring us all to the mountain with our blankets, lawn chairs, and tents for a magical evening under the stars.

The Second Annual Sourland Spectacular was a huge success in no small part due to the work of many volunteers. Reed Clark, Jim Heidere, and Ed and Meg Silverman constituted our stalwart parking/traffic crew. Our trustworthy Road Marshalls included John Costanza, Al Cudworth, Tim Jost, John Krivosheyff, Rick Logan, Ralph Peterson, Sue Quate, Rosemary Reshetar, Jay Rubinow, and Jim Smith. Special thanks to Sourland Spectacular volunteer Tim Jost who recruited and organized the Road Marshalls, and also helped to organize the event. Feeding and hydrating 600 cyclists is no small task, just ask our Rest Stop, Breakfast, Lunch and Ice Crew: Darlis Maksymovich, Robin Bloch Wennogle, Ken Perry, Jay Watson, Leslie Potter, Ian McGahren, Megan McGahren, Fiona McGahren, Chase Hamilton, Felix Noonan, Louise Wilson, Carol Heffler, Brad Wilson, Carolyn Hoeschele, Kim Galatro, and Jim Heidere. Kudos to our Arrow Painters - Bill Cooper, Thom Jackson, Carol Heffler and Al and Deb Cuthbert - who kept us all on the right path.

The Sourland Conservancy’s first Train Station Series was a huge success due to the expertise and passion of our speakers who volunteered to help advance our Education and Outreach Program. Many thanks to Sharyn Magee (Birds of the Sourlands), Tracy Carluccio (Natural Gas Pipelines), Cliff Wilson (Comprehensive Deer Management in the Sourlands), Tadhg Rainey (Lyme Disease), Andrea Bonette (Sourland History and Geology), Michael Heffler (Author of “Climbing Through Life”), Kevin Burkman (Open Space Map of the Sourlands), Judy Jengo (Film: “Birders: The Central Park Effect”), Jared Rosenbaum (Native Landscapes and Deer), and Patricia Flanagan (Swallow Hill Farm). We greatly appreciate the work done this summer on a Sourland Resident Stewardship Recognition Program by our interns from Rider University - Elisabeth Teixeira, Danielle Campanella, and Jason Dallas.

One of the Sourland Conservancy’s biggest achievements this summer was the completion of an Open Space Map for the Sourlands. This project consists of a set of maps showing the Sourland Mountain sections of Hillsborough, Montgomery, Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough, East Amwell, West Amwell and Lambertville. The maps are color coded to identify the status of each parcel of land in these municipalities – Developed, Preserved, “Up for Grabs” (neither developed nor preserved, at this point). These maps will soon be available on our new website (coming soon)! The Sourland Conservancy will make these maps available to governing bodies and land preservation groups to help with strategic land preservation. These maps make it very clear that land preservation must continue to be a priority in the Sourland region. The Sourland Conservancy would like to express its appreciation and admiration to Kevin Burkman, the GIS analyst who created the Open Space Maps as a volunteer intern. Kevin volunteered countless hours to work on the maps and, in addition, volunteered his time to present the maps to various groups for the Sourland Conservancy.

We look forward to working with all of these amazing volunteers again in the future and also to celebrating our accomplishments with them at our 2013 Holiday Party on December 15th. Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Data entry
- Mailings
- Sponsorship and Grant Research
- IT
- Events: Holiday Party, Music Festival, Sourland Spectacular, and more
- Stewardship Recognition Program
- Newsletter
- Fundraising
- Committees: Education & Outreach, Advocacy, Technology, and more
- Sourland Conservancy “Ambassador” at local events
- Other: Let us know your interests and areas of expertise and we will suggest a volunteer project that may be of interest to you!

For more information about these volunteer opportunities and to sign up, please use this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QCTRHPX

QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH THE SOURLAND CONSERVANCY?
CONTACT CAROLINE KATMANN:
DIRECTOR@SOURLAND.ORG
Sourland Cuisine:
Venison Recipe
Venison Shoulder or Neck Roast
Recipe submitted by:
The Cyburt Family
Hillsborough, NJ

Start first thing in the morning.
Place roast or neck on a couple of sheets of foil that have been seamed together.
Slather meat with mustard (any kind) and season with salt and freshly ground pepper.
Cover roast with a pound of bacon, using toothpicks where needed and a large sliced onion.
Pour a can of beer over the roast and wrap the foil tightly and place in a roasting pan.
Put in the oven as high as the temperature will allow for 15-20 minutes. (My oven goes to 500)
Turn temp. down to 225-250 degrees and let it cook ALL DAY.
Not only is the roast tender and delicious but it makes an incredible gravy.
Enjoy!

Sourland Conservancy’s Holiday Party!
(A Sourland Conservancy holiday tradition, to express our gratitude to our members, sponsors and supporters)

When: Sunday, December 15, 2013; 2-6 p.m.
Where: The Antique Barn at Cashel Farm
145 Werts ville Road
Hillsborough, New Jersey

Thanks to the gracious hospitality of Jennifer Bryson McGahren and John McGahren, our Holiday Party will once again take place in this beautiful, warm, and festive setting.

Please be our guests - help us spread some Sourland Mountain cheer and celebrate all of the Sourland Conservancy's accomplishments this year!

Watch for additional information about the Holiday Party, and more, on the Sourland Conservancy's new website (coming soon), in our future email blasts.

Holiday Party in the Antique Barn