

Hunterdon Land Trust preserves Clinton Township children's camp



Bob Jones, the owner of Clinton area Winnewald Day Camp, has donated a conservation easement on his property to the Hunterdon Land Trust. The donation ensures that the land that decades of campers, counselors and parents have grown to love will be protected for generations to come. The 2011 season will mark the camp's 60th year.

Every summer Winnewald Day Camp welcomes hundreds of

children aged 5 through 12. Campers participate in a wide variety of activities, many of which focus on a healthy outdoor experience, such as hiking, nature study, and fishing. Mr. Jones has owned and run the camp with the help of his wife Carol and terrific staff members for the past 45 years. "Everything I love is right here," he says, "offering children an outdoor educational and recreational program, enjoying the outdoors and animals, both farm and wild."

"Research shows that children are spending less and less time outdoors," he says. "They are nature deprived." Programs at Winnewald are tailored to different age groups. For example, the youngest campers learn to fish in Prescott Brook, which winds through the property, while older campers take more challenging trips around the county and participate in age-appropriate activities.

The conservation easement at Winnewald Day Camp covers 19 acres of forest and wetlands, and includes Prescott Brook. "I am very excited to add Winnewald Day Camp to the other conservation easements for which the Hunterdon Land Trust is responsible," said Kate Buttolph, Director of Land Acquisition and Stewardship. "Conservation easements protect land in perpetuity, which means that this commitment will protect Winnewald Day Camp forever – as the old camp rallying cry goes."

"Every acre we protect in Hunterdon County gives current and future residents the gifts of clean air and water, peaceful forests, diverse wildlife, and locally produced food," said Margaret Waldock, Executive Director of the Hunterdon Land Trust. "Preserving Winnewald Day Camp is especially meaningful because this is the very place that many Hunterdon residents have learned to value nature. I'd like to thank Mr. Jones for not only preserving his land, but also for his generous gift to the Hunterdon Land Trust Stewardship Fund. This Fund helps us meet our obligations to monitor conservation easements now and in the future, and to ensure that donor's intentions, like Mr. Jones's, are honored for generations to come."

Mr. Jones decided to preserve his land because he hopes it will always be a place for children to connect with nature. By donating the conservation easement on his camp, he is truly giving the children of Hunterdon County, present and future, a wonderful gift.

The Hunterdon Land Trust is Hunterdon County, New Jersey's only countywide land trust. Incorporated as a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization in 1996, the Land Trust is committed to preserving and protecting the rural landscapes and natural resources of Hunterdon County. To learn more about the Hunterdon Land Trust, please visit their website at <http://www.hlta.org>. To learn more about Camp Winnewald, visit <http://www.winnewald.com>.