



Bowman's Hill
WILDFLOWER PRESERVE
P.O. Box 685 New Hope, PA 18938

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jennifer Pennington, Membership and Communications Coordinator
pennington@bhwp.org, (215) 862-2924

**BOWMAN'S HILL WILDFLOWER PRESERVE ANNOUNCES
LAND ETHICS AWARD WINNERS AT ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve presented their sixth annual Land Ethics Awards at the Land Ethics Symposium on March 10, 2016. The award honors the creative use of native plants in the landscape, sustainable and regenerative design, and ethical land management and construction practices. By raising public awareness about sustainable land management practices, the Land Ethics Award is an important part of the Preserve's efforts to inspire the appreciation and use of native plants and serve as an educational resource for conservation and stewardship.

The 2016 Land Ethics Award Winners are:

Public Space Category: **Borough of Doylestown Rain Gardens**

Group Category: **Grubs Ecology, Jamison Elementary School and Central Bucks School District, "Project Put Nature Back"**

Residential Category: **Hess Landscape Architects, "Philadelphia Farm to Forest"**

Residential Restoration

Director's Award: **North Creek Nurseries, Inc.**

Award of Merit: **Weatherwood Design, Petrona Charles Residence**

Award of Merit: **Pinelands Preservation Alliance**

Award of Merit: **John Morgan Thomas Landscape Architects, Raab Meadow**

Award of Merit: **Andropogon Associates, Ltd. &**

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Gateway Center

Public Space Category: Borough of Doylestown Rain Gardens

The Doylestown Environmental Advisory Council initiated this project to create two demonstration gardens, one featuring solutions to landscaping problems such as wet shady spots, the other in a lawn area to demonstrate sustainable stormwater runoff management. Volunteers and local landscape architects used recycled and donated materials and planted the gardens with native species. The gardens are on Borough-owned land and are accessible to the public. Future signage will indicate how these gardens, by using low impact development techniques, turn water into an environmental asset rather than a nuisance.

The awards jury admired how this project, "offers examples of solutions to landscaping problems. It also shows creativity in the use of trash from other area projects for building infrastructure."

Group Category: Grubs Ecology, Jamison Elementary School, "Project Put Nature Back"

If ever a project embodies the concept that "from little acorns, mighty oaks grow", this is the one. Grubs Ecology at Jamison Elementary School started with teacher Jared Hottenstein's desire to teach kids to love nature. He wanted to teach kids to take action; to see things that need to be done around them and to do something about it. He realized he could do this by putting nature back into the lives of his students.

A drain from the school's kindergarten playground emptied right in the middle of a patch of lawn. Most of the year, that patch was too wet to mow. Jared wondered, could the kids from Grubs Ecology come up with a solution?

The group decided to replace that patch of straggly weeds with a rain garden. They filled it with native plants like turtlehead, black-eyed susans, jack in the pulpits, river birch trees, winter berry hollies, irises, cardinal flowers, and amsonia. After completing the rain garden the students wanted to tackle other projects. They have since created a walkway out of repurposed mahogany bleachers from the local middle school. Next they sponsored an Eagle Scout project to create an outdoor weather station in the rain garden, and then another Eagle Scout project to create a school-community garden. Then came another brainstorm: "what if we composted all that waste from school lunches?" They began a school-wide composting program with a fleet of worm composting bins and compost tumblers. Once the kids started researching how to compost, they quickly learned that it was possible to shred all of the school's wasted paper and compost that as well. They built an eco-pavilion so entire grade levels can get outside to an outdoor classroom. This was the perfect opportunity to give kids the chance to help build something and feel a sense of ownership in their school. They installed rain barrels allowing them to use compost to make compost tea to organically fertilize the garden.

The Land Ethics award jury loved how Jamison Elementary brings children closer to nature and educates them and their parents in outdoor classrooms about ecologically beneficial landscaping - garden issues, composting, recycling, weather, rain gardens, and wildlife habitat. The project was accomplished with full participation by the students and their parents, giving them a sense of ownership and inspiring them to plan for future projects.

Residential Category: Hess Landscape Architects, "Philadelphia Farm to Forest"

The client sought an ecological restoration of a large old farm property facing typical urban development pressures: increased stormwater runoff, decreased water quality in existing stream and pond, and invasive exotic plant species taking hold. These factors damaged their stream corridor, making it more flood prone. The existing pond accumulated depositions of silt, to the point that no aquatic life of any consequence remained. The landscape design resolved the riparian corridor issues by completely repairing the stream and pond, establishing stable circulation patterns around the site, and installing ecologically appropriate plantings.

The Land Ethics Award jury was impressed with how "this project exemplifies what can happen when a dedicated homeowner is willing to take the necessary steps and financial commitment to halt environmental degradation and return a property to its former environmentally functional state."

Director's Award: North Creek Nurseries, Inc.

North Creek Nurseries, Inc. in Landenberg, PA is a leader in providing native plants for ecological restoration projects throughout the region. For 27 years they have been innovating and improving their best management practices to leave the lightest possible footprint, while improving the quality of their plant material. Over three acres of their 17-acre farm in Landenberg are dedicated to trial, demonstration, and pollinator gardens. A well developed system of rain gardens, bio swales and retention basins connect the different elevations of the property, collecting the water for reuse. Integrated Pest Management protocols keep pesticide use to a minimum.

Per the jury, “North Creek Nurseries, Inc. is a terrific model of what a plant nursery should be like and how a plant nursery can bridge the gap between horticulture and ecology.”

The 2016 Land Ethics Award was juried by Don Borden, adjunct professor of environmental design at Delaware Valley College; James Bray, Chairman of the Lower Makefield Township Environmental Council; and Trustee Karen Budd. For more information on the Land Ethics Award, visit www.bhwp.org/education/Land-Ethics-Award.htm, or contact Preserve Education Coordinator Kelly Joslin at (215) 862-2924.

PHOTO LIST: *Additional photos available by request.*

[NC_Trial_Demonstration Garden.jpg]

[Jamison Rain Garden Dig.jpg]

[Doylestown Boro receives Land Ethics Award.jpg]

[Farm to Forest.jpg]

Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve inspires the appreciation and use of native plants by serving as a sanctuary and an educational resource for conservation and stewardship. The Preserve is located at 1635 River Road (PA Rt. 32), about 2.5 miles south of New Hope, Pennsylvania, and is open to the public year-round. For more information visit: www.bhwp.org or call (215) 862-2924. ###

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