



News Release

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
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Historic Roberts Farm Orchard Re-established in Montague NJ

During the last week of April, 2003, twenty-one (21) apple tree saplings were successfully replanted in the historic orchard at the Roberts Farm on Route 206 in Montague, New Jersey.

The saplings were grafted from the original trees found within the orchard. Protective fencing to protect the saplings from deer and small rodents was also installed.

The Roberts Farm orchard is believed to be the oldest in the National Park Service. According to Dr. William Coli of the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service, some of the trees are over 200 years old. Only one apple variety from the orchard has been determined so far, but all will eventually be identified once the saplings bear fruit.

The project was a cooperative effort by farmer Leonard Pollara (who farms within the park on a special use permit), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site (Brookline MA), Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and the Lyman Estate Greenhouse (Waltham MA.) Sussex County NJ also helped by donating a load of wood chips for mulching around the trees.

The replanting of the saplings in this orchard marks a historic milestone in the preservation of a living portion of the cultural heritage of Montague, New Jersey, and the National Park Service.

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