

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION



Photo Credit: Dwight Hiscano



A Highlands Sunset

A beautiful sunset at Lubbers Run in Sussex County provides inspiration as the public debate on the Highlands draft master plan winds down. See the latest news on the plan on page 4.



New Jersey Conservation
FOUNDATION

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION

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The New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is a private, non-profit organization completely independent from the State of New Jersey. We rely on private philanthropic support and grants from a variety of public and private sector organizations. NJCF's mission is to preserve New Jersey's land and natural resources for the benefit of all. As a leading innovator and catalyst for saving land, NJCF protects strategic lands through acquisition and stewardship; promotes strong land use policies; and forges partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Since 1960, NJCF has worked to protect the state's farmland, forests, urban parks, wetlands, water quality and special places.

For information about becoming a member or to request a change of address, please contact Lauren Ramos at 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728), e-mail us at info@njconservation.org or visit our website at www.njconservation.org.

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We invite your comments and suggestions. Please send them to: New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931 | PHONE 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) | FAX 908-234-1189 EMAIL info@njconservation.org

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www.njconservation.org

NJCF Receives Weyerhaeuser Grant



The grant money will be used to help purchase approximately 80,000 Atlantic White cedar seedlings, 24,000 feet of deer fencing and 2,500 fence posts to support restoration plans at the 9,400-acre preserve. Pictured at the check presentation are (from left) Michele S. Byers, NJCF Executive Director;

The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation recently donated \$5,000 to NJCF to help restore 50 acres on the Franklin Parker Preserve in Chatsworth. NJCF co-owns the preserve with the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry.

Ronald Bell, Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation Coordinator; Stephanie Monahan, NJCF Director of Development and Outreach; and Greg Romano, Assistant Director and Director of Statewide Land Acquisition.

To learn how you can support NJCF, please contact Monahan at 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) or Stephanie@njconservation.org.

Save the Date



Saturday, May 12 2007

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Fiesta Mexicana!
Barn Dance

PROCEEDS TO HELP NJCF PRESERVE LAND IN THE WICKECHEOKE CREEK PRESERVE



DINING ■ DRINKING ■ DANCING ■ PIÑATAS ■ RAFFLE ■ AUCTION

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From Our Executive Director



Legacy is an often used word in land conservation.

After all, a core value of preserved open space and farmland is its benefit for future generations.

With the recent passing of conservation pioneer Helen Fenske, it's not exaggerating to say that New Jersey would look vastly different today if not for her legacy.

It was 1959 when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey proposed building a new international airport in the heart of New Jersey's Great Swamp. Sprawl had not yet come to this unique and massive freshwater wetland area. Helen and a small group of local citizens decided to stop the airport.

These days, we expect grassroots citizens groups to fight and often win. Not so in 1959; the Port Authority drew on vast

governmental and financial resources. In fact, they had never lost a fight.

Enter Helen Fenske and her friends and the newly formed Great Swamp Committee of the North American Wildlife Foundation, which eventually evolved into NJCF, who began the work of saving the Swamp.

"When I think of Helen, the first word which comes to mind is 'energy,'" recalls Sandy Millspaugh, the foundation's president when Helen served as executive director. "She had that unusual gift of persistence to the point of exasperation, but just stopping short of becoming antagonistic. As a result, she pushed and prodded people through her force of personality to accomplish results that turned the tide in stopping the destruction of the Great Swamp."

Helen and the Great Swamp Committee beat back the Port Authority and preserved the Great Swamp. In early 1964, the committee turned over 1,400 acres of land to the federal government, that later became the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge – New Jersey's first national refuge, and the first federally designated wilderness area east of the Mississippi. And today, the region still retains much of the rural character it had back then.

Helen had a hand in creating Patriot's Path and the Hudson River Walkway, and in

saving Sunfish Pond near the Delaware Water Gap. She was a tireless advocate for the protection of the entire Fanny Highlands region. She worked to win passage of New Jersey's first wetlands protections and the Green Acres program. For many years, if there was an environmental issue in New Jersey, you would find Helen unapologetically in the middle of it!

From 1960 to 1969, Helen served as executive director of what we now call the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, which evolved from the Great Swamp Committee. Helen was instrumental in the creation of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), where she later served as a special assistant to the first Commissioner, then as Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources, and briefly, as Acting Commissioner.

As one of the many who followed in her footsteps, I can say with confidence that Helen Fenske's legacy will last for centuries, and may even outlast the few developments she *wasn't* able to stop. She'd like that.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele S. Byers".

MICHELE S. BYERS
Executive Director



One of the many historic occasions in the life of Helen Fenske (center), the 1969 signing of legislation which enabled environmental commissions to be established by municipal governments in New Jersey. Pictured (from left) former Governor William Cahill; Assemblywoman Josephine Margetts; Margen Penick; Ian Walker, Executive Director of the Stony Brook – Millstone Watershed Association; Helen Fenske; David Moore, Executive Director of the North Jersey Conservation Foundation; Tom Kellers, Chief Naturalist for the Monmouth County Park System; and James Sayen. Both Penick and Sayen were founding members of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions.

Do you know where your water comes from?

New Jerseyans in 16 counties rely on the Highlands for all or some of their drinking water. Highlands reservoirs, rivers and aquifers supply water for over 5.4 million people – 65 percent of the state's population.



If you live in the Highlands in Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex or Warren counties, your water most likely comes from private or public wells that draw on the region's groundwater.

If you live outside the Highlands in Passaic, Essex, or Hudson counties, it is likely that 50 percent to 100 percent of your water is Highlands water. Much of Bergen, Union,

Monksville Reservoir, Passaic County

Somerset, Middlesex and Mercer counties rely on the Highlands for at least 25 percent of their supply. Even Monmouth, Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties utilize some Highlands water.

The adoption of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act in 2004

was a historic effort to save New Jersey's endangered water supply from the impacts of inappropriate land uses. As development occurs on more than 3,000 Highlands acres every year, water purifying forests and farmland are replaced with impervious surfaces – roofs, roads, parking lots. Water can no longer make its way into the ground to aquifers that supply wells and replenish stream flows during droughts.

Already, demand for water exceeds availability in over half of the Highlands watersheds! And demand will continue to grow as population increases inside and outside the region. The Highlands represent a regional problem that requires a regional solution.

Regional planning has proven to be the only way to protect important public resources like water supply, natural areas and wildlife. Only effective regional planning can overcome the weaknesses of New Jersey's "home-rule" political process.

The draft Highlands Regional Master Plan, mandated to implement the Act, was released in November 2006 by the Highlands Council. Goals of the regional plan are to protect the state's water supply, forests – critical for water protection – as well as wildlife habitat, farmland and historic, cultural, recreational and scenic resources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please help NJCF support a strong Regional Master Plan by commenting on the Highlands Council website at www.highlands.state.nj.us or by mail to NJ Highlands Council, Draft Plan Comments, 100 North Road, Chester, NJ 07930.

For more information, please contact NJCF Highlands Project Manager Wilma Frey at Wilma@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728).

Pollution Settlement Fund Preserves Deptford Land

A pollution settlement fund established with NJCF in 1992 when an oil company was cited for polluting the environment has helped save nearly 80 acres of Deptford land in the last 14 years. The latest and final acquisition with the \$400,000 fund helps expand the Old Pine Farm Preserve along Big Timber Creek in the Blackwood Terrace section of Deptford Township.



Big Timber Creek, Gloucester County

to extend the greenway from the headwaters of Big Timber Creek to a portion of the Delaware River.”

The fund was established after Coastal Eagle Point Refinery was cited in 1989 for violating water pollution control laws at its West Deptford facility. Interest payments and reimbursements on lands that NJCF sold to the State have allowed the monies to be used repeatedly over the years.

The recent acquisition was funded equally by grants from NJCF and the State Green Acres Program. The property is owned by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust, which manages the preserve with guidance from NJCF.

“The recently acquired properties are part of an area of Deptford where many children go out their door and have a beautiful open space to play so we are happy that it will remain that way forever,” said Joan Tracy, Chairperson of the Old Pine Farm Natural

Lands Trust. “Our land trust and NJCF have worked together since 1992 to protect Old Pine Farm, which provides the community with an ideal place for passive recreation and nature study.”

Located in NJCF’s Big Timber Creek project area, Old Pine Farm is one of the few remaining natural and protected areas along the highly developed, tidal section of Big Timber Creek. The area features grassland savannas, hardwood forests and a thick maple swamp.

“Big Timber Creek is surrounded on three sides by acres of freshwater, tidal wetlands that are an important resource for many wildlife and plant species,” said Janet Eisenhauer, NJCF Delaware Bayshore Regional Manager. “The lush wetlands that surround Old Pine Farm are home for many species of plants, such as wild rice, an important food source for many resident and migratory bird species.”

For more information on NJCF’s work in the Big Timber Creek project area, please contact Eisenhauer at 856-589-4317 or Janet@njconservation.org.

NJCF and the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust recently preserved 11 different properties in Deptford totaling four acres along First, Washington and McNaughton Avenues. The \$414,000 acquisition expands the now 36-acre urban greenway provided by the Old Pine Farm Preserve.

“Gloucester County is a better place to live today because of the land we have been able to protect with this special fund,” said Michele S. Byers, NJCF Executive Director. “Our goal is

Land Donation Helps Expand Wickecheoke Creek Preserve



The newest addition to the NJCF Wickecheoke Creek Preserve in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County

NJCF recently expanded its Wickecheoke Creek Preserve in Hunterdon County with the addition of 35 acres of farmland along Reading Road in Delaware Township. The property includes a section of Cold Run Creek, a tributary of the Wickecheoke, and is about a half mile from the Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge, the last remaining historic covered bridge in New Jersey.

NJCF purchased 30 acres of farmland from Chuck and Lois Cline for \$1.35 million using funding from the State Farmland Preservation Program, Hunterdon County and Delaware Township. At the same time, Rachel Finkle and Sven Helmer donated five acres of adjacent farmland, valued at \$282,500.

“The five acre donation was vital to making the preservation possible,” said Alix Bacon, NJCF Western Piedmont Regional Manager. “When preserving property through the State Farmland Preservation Program, we must match the State’s financial contribution with local funds. The very generous donation by Rachel Finkle and Sven Helmer allowed us to reach that threshold. Over the last two years, the State has committed \$2 million to help fund farmland preservation projects in NJCF’s Wickecheoke Creek project area, but tapping into the necessary local funds is critical

to making preservation projects like this happen.”

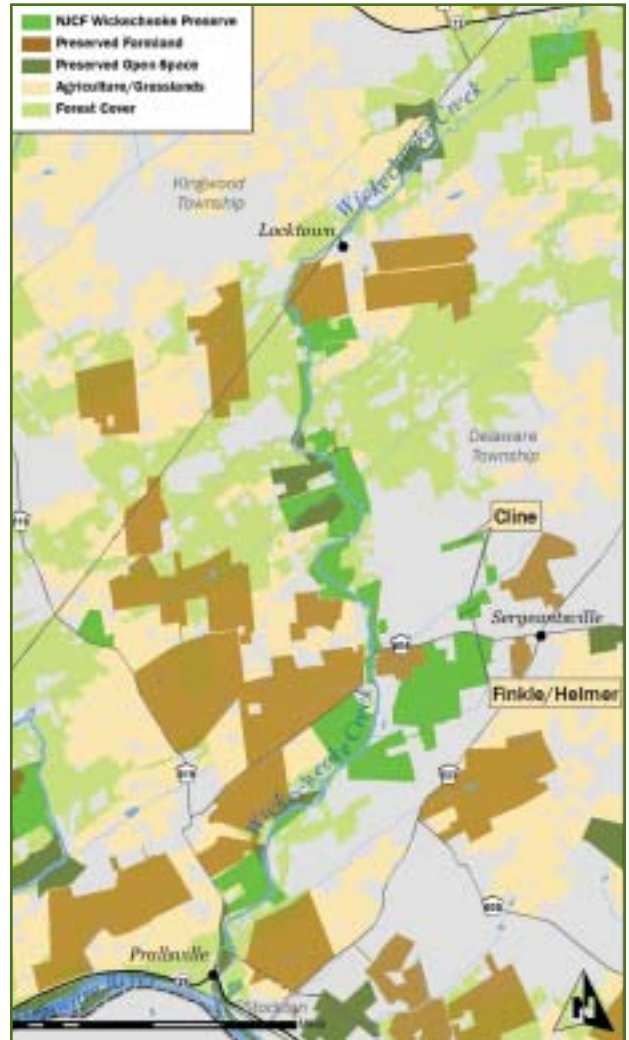
Rachel Finkle is the owner of Joseph Finkle & Son, a unique Lambertville hardware store founded by her grandfather in 1920, which has survived many community changes and today occupies four buildings on Coryell Street. The unique store has earned a reputation as the place to go for hard to find items and become a community cornerstone, supporting many conservation efforts and noteworthy charitable causes.

“We were happy to donate the land to help make the preservation possible,” said Finkle, whose family has been in Hunterdon County for three generations. “There are several preserved properties adjacent to the land and

multiple houses cropping up would have tarnished the community. Since moving to Delaware Township in 1991, we have wanted to help protect the area.”

The property, which was subdivided into six residential building lots, is part of the original Cline family farm, a 122-acre agricultural and dairy farm which had been in the Cline family for over 200 years.

“About one-third of the original farm has been preserved,” said Chuck Cline, a retired businessman who still owns seven acres on Reading Road. “My father grew-up on the



Alloway Township Farm Preserved

NJCF, in partnership with the State Green Acres program, recently preserved the 170-acre Love Farm in Alloway Township, Salem County. The property was purchased by Green Acres from Sarah Love and expands the Thundergut Wildlife Management Area.



A recently preserved farm in Alloway Township, Salem County

Located in NJCF's Burden Hill Forest project area, the property has road frontage along Commissioners Pike and County Route 611. Its open fields, woodlands, breathtaking views and rolling landscape provide critical foraging and nesting habitat for bald eagles.

The property was being marketed for development when NJCF reached out to the realtor and landowner, initiating the preservation effort. Working in tandem with Green Acres, NJCF was able to establish the preservation agreement and complete appraisals on the property. Green Acres then completed the acquisition, resulting in the protection of an extraordinary piece of the Burden Hill Forest.

Burden Hill Forest is a 15,000-acre, mostly contiguous forest complex, located in southwestern Salem County, in the Alloway and Stow Creek watersheds. It spans the three townships of Alloway, Quinton, and Lower Alloways Creek. The forest is of unique ecological value, supporting an array of rare and endangered wildlife, including species of migratory songbirds and flora, such as swamp pink, Allegheny chinquapin and American chestnuts.

To learn more about NJCF's work in the Burden Hill Forest project area, please contact NJCF Delaware Bayshore Regional Manager Janet Eisenhauer at Janet@njconservation.org or 856-589-4317.

property and I think he would be pleased to see some of it preserved."

"We are thrilled that the Cline family considered preserving their land instead of developing it," said Delaware Township Mayor Kristen McCarthy. "In the end, the preservation of this land is a win-win for the Clines and the community. We appreciate the diligence of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation working in partnership with the county and township to protect this important land."

The preservation expands NJCF's 988-acre Wickecheoke Creek Preserve, which is open to the public and follows the course of the beautiful Delaware River tributary from the headwaters on the Croton plateau through its dramatic descent to the Delaware River at Stockton. Protecting the Wickecheoke is vital to the region's water supply since it feeds the Delaware & Raritan Canal, a source of drinking water for 1.2 million New Jersey residents.

The Wickecheoke Creek Preserve is home to elusive beaver and mink, spectacular great blue herons and endangered species such as red-shouldered hawks, wood turtles and long-tailed salamander as well as over 400 species of native plants.

NJCF will also maintain agricultural grasslands on the property, which are disappearing from New Jersey at an alarming rate. Grasslands provide vital habitat for many birds like the vesper sparrow, northern bobwhite quail, eastern meadowlark, northern harrier, bobolink and others, some of which have decreased by nearly 50 percent in the past few decades.

For more information on saving the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve, please contact Alix Bacon at 1-609-773-0333 or Alix@njconservation.org.

26-acre Bedminster Property Protected by Conservation Easement Donation

The estate of Condict Hyde of Bedminster recently donated a conservation easement on the family's 26-acre Spook Hollow Road property to NJCF. Owned by the Hyde family for some 80 years, the property features forest, open fields and hills and valleys along the pristine Middle Brook.



NJCF received a conservation easement donation on this Bedminster property

“Our parents absolutely loved the land and they would be happy that it will be protected forever,” said Brooke Goode of Gladstone, one of Condict Hyde’s four children. “The property was part of an old pig farm and my father and our whole family grew-up on the land so it is very special for us.”

The conservation easement donation comes at a time when Congress has significantly expanded the tax benefits available to landowners and farmers who donate



easements. Until the end of 2007, landowners can take a tax deduction of up to 50% of their income, as compared to 30% under previous law, and qualifying farmers can actually deduct up to 100% of their income. Donors also now have up to 16 years to take tax deductions for conservation easement

donations as opposed to the previous six years – a significant benefit for those with insufficient income to enjoy the full benefit of their donation.

“The expanded tax incentives definitely help make donating an easement more feasible from a financial point of view and we hope other landowners will consider the opportunities they present as well as the importance of protecting our natural resources,” said Goode.

“We are extremely grateful to the Hyde family for their generous conservation easement donation, which illustrates the family’s tremendous commitment to saving Bedminster’s land and natural resources,” said Michele S. Byers, NJCF Executive Director.

The conservation easement donation paves the way for Bedminster Township to purchase the land outright from the Hyde family at a fraction of its market value. Later this year, it is expected that Bedminster will acquire the land in partnership with Somerset County, Lamington Conservancy and Upper Raritan Watershed Association (URWA). Ultimately, URWA will own and maintain the property as a nature preserve which will have public access.

The Hyde property is part of NJCF’s Black River Greenway project area, a region that includes parts of Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset counties where NJCF has preserved nearly 3,000 acres of land for both public access and the protection of environmentally sensitive resources.

To learn more about NJCF’s work in the region, please contact Beth Davisson, NJCF Black River Greenway Manager, at 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) or Beth@njconservation.org.

What is a Conservation Easement?

Important in land preservation, conservation easements can be good tools. A conservation easement is a legally enforceable agreement that preserves some portion of open space on an individual's property to protect its natural, agricultural and scenic resources.

Conservation easements can be donated to qualified non-profit land trusts and government agencies who agree to monitor the land covered by the easement to ensure the easement is not violated. Easement donors continue to own their land and to control access to it; some conservation easements provide limited public access.

Landowners can receive a federal tax break for donating conservation easements and for selling easements at a bargain sale price – less than market value. Landowners receive a tax deduction for making what can amount to a substantial charitable gift in addition to the knowledge that they are protecting lands that have significant benefits to their community.

Colts Neck Property & Stewardship Fund Donated to NJCF

The estate of the late Marion Huber of Colts Neck has donated her home and five-acre property on Route 537 as well as a stewardship fund to NJCF.

The donation is subject to a life estate to Huber's longtime caregivers who currently live in the house. The stewardship funds will be used for the maintenance of the property, which is surrounded by the Monmouth County Dorbrook Recreation Area, and may be used in the future to maintain other properties owned by NJCF.

"Marion died in 2001 and she had an interest in seeing the property preserved," said Michael W. Huber, Marion's nephew and a

newly elected NJCF Trustee. "She supported various conservation causes over the years and we felt NJCF would maintain the property with the integrity Marion would have wanted. The stewardship fund is also very important because land donated without stewardship money can place a financial burden on the organization charged with managing the land."

The value of the gift from Marion Huber's estate was over \$1 million.

"We are extremely grateful to the Huber family for their generous land donation and stewardship fund, which illustrates their tremendous commitment to saving Monmouth County's land and natural resources," said Michele S. Byers, NJCF Executive Director.

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. This principle guides NJCF's Stewardship Program, which manages and protects over 20,000 acres of preserved land statewide. The stewardship team maintains public access and protects natural resources on both lands owned by NJCF and properties where NJCF holds a conservation easement.

For more information on supporting NJCF's land preservation and natural resource protection efforts, please call 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) or visit our website at www.njconservation.org.

Welcome New Trustee Michael W. Huber



Michael W. Huber became an NJCF Trustee in January. After serving in the Air Force in the Korean war, he joined his family company, J.M. Huber Corporation as a mechanical engineer, gradually moving into management positions and at his retirement was President and Chairman. He has served on the Boards of

several public companies, and is currently a Director of Orthometrix, Inc., a public company manufacturing and distributing therapeutic medical devices. Mr. Huber has been a Trustee of The Nature Conservancy, N.J. Chapter, and the Monmouth Conservation Foundation. He is currently a Trustee of the American Littoral Society and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University.

2007 Farm Bill Offers New Jersey Great Opportunity

NJCF is working with Environmental Defense, the Wilderness Society and the New Jersey Congressional delegation to increase conservation and nutritional program funding as well as support for smaller, environmentally sustainable farms in the 2007 Farm Bill.

The 2007 Farm Bill could provide unprecedented resources to help New Jersey protect its farmland, combat sprawl and protect wetlands. One of the most successful Farm Bill programs in our state, the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program has helped permanently preserve over 100 New Jersey farms. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), another program administered under the Farm Bill, provided nearly \$5.18 million to NJCF to preserve and restore approximately 2,200 acres of wetlands in the heart of the Pine Barrens on the Franklin Parker Preserve. And landowner demand for funding from WRP in New Jersey far exceeds the annual supply.

A proposed new U.S. Department of Agriculture suburban and community forest protection program could save threatened private forestland in the Highlands, while increased program funding for conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program would help landowners protect natural resources.

The “farm to cafeteria” program is an innovative program proposed in the 2007 Farm Bill. If implemented, it would provide schoolchildren in New Jersey with greater access to healthy fruits and vegetables, and increase marketing opportunities for New Jersey farmers.

Each year, the United States increases its imports of organic products because demand exceeds domestic production. The 2007 Farm Bill could help reverse that trend by supporting transition to organic agriculture for more farmers in the

U.S. through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

Changing federal farm policy will not be an easy task, but NJCF is working with many interested groups and individuals to advocate for a 2007 Farm Bill that would bring meaningful aid to New Jersey. **Please contact NJCF Policy Analyst Amy Hansen at Amy@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) if you would like to participate in this process.**



A Tewksbury Township farm, Hunterdon County

Photo Credit: Beth Davison

Legislation Supports Renewed Land Preservation Funding



The Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), New Jersey's primary land preservation funding source, is nearly out of funds. NJCF is working with a large coalition of groups through the "Keep It Green" campaign to demonstrate the tremendous need and public support for the GSPT, and to galvanize the Corzine Administration and key legislators to ensure passage of a funding initiative this year.

In January, the Governor noted the importance of GSPT renewal in the State of the State address. "Nothing could be more important to the success of land conservation in New Jersey right now than the refinancing of the Garden State Preservation Trust," said Alison Mitchell, NJCF Policy Director.

All New Jerseyans from urban, suburban and rural areas deserve high-quality, accessible neighborhood parks, natural areas and

historic sites to enjoy with their families. New Jersey communities rely on these areas for a high quality of life, livable neighborhoods and sustainable economies.

The Garden State Preservation Trust was established in 1998 as a financing authority that receives funds through a constitutionally dedicated funding source. One of the nation's largest publicly-funded land preservation efforts, the Trust has preserved hundreds of

State funding is critical to protecting preserved lands like the Franklin Parker Preserve in Chatsworth, Burlington County

thousands of acres of valuable natural lands in partnership with nonprofit organizations and local and county open space programs.

The funding is scheduled to run out sometime this year and renewal of funding for continued open space and farmland preservation is critical. Creating and maintaining urban parks, natural areas and historic sites is part of our state's urban revitalization strategy. Recently introduced legislation (ACR229/SCR131), spearheaded by Senators Bob Smith and Leonard Lance and Assemblyman John McKeon, would dedicate additional revenue from the existing sales tax to replenish GSPT. The success of any legislation renewing funds for preservation will require a groundswell of support from a broad constituency including environmental organizations, local governments and citizens.

New Jersey must renew and strengthen the Garden State Preservation Trust now in order to ensure a high quality of life in all New Jersey communities and our children's futures. Please contact your legislators and the Governor and let them know you support for renewing the GSPT this year. **For more details, please contact NJCF Policy Analyst Amy Hansen at Amy@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728).**



Take Action for Conservation

NJCF recently launched a new online advocacy system that provides participants with periodic alerts and updates via e-mail on timely issues affecting land preservation in New Jersey. We hope the alert system will help New Jerseyans informed on the latest

conservation issues and prompt you to *Take Action for Conservation*. Citizen advocacy is critical to NJCF's effort to protect New Jersey's precious land and natural resources because our elected officials tend to take notice when the people they are representing make their views known. **If you would like to receive our policy alerts or have any questions on this service, please contact NJCF Policy Analyst Amy Hansen at Amy@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728). In addition to e-mail, the policy alerts are posted on NJCF's website at www.njconservation.org/TakeAction.**

NJCF's Three Musketeers



NJCF volunteers (from left) Muriel Foster, Anne Gaus and Holly Muller

Muriel Foster, Anne Gaus and Holly Muller are NJCF's three musketeers of volunteering. Odds are that if you visit NJCF's Far Hills office on a Thursday morning, you will find the three women together, lending their time to support special events, organize the library and assist with administrative functions.

"Muriel and I started volunteering at another organization three or four years ago," said Anne, 70, of Bernardsville. "I just wanted to volunteer for an organization that was dedicated to protecting New Jersey land. Holly was the volunteer coordinator and we enjoyed being together and working together."

"They were my best volunteers," said Holly, 52, a Bridgewater resident who has since moved on to be an evening library supervisor

at Rutgers. "Working evenings leaves me plenty of time to volunteer during the day."

"I think all three of us just happened to have a concern about protecting New Jersey land," said Muriel, 61, of Chester. "As a volunteer, anything I can do to help NJCF direct more of its resources to protecting land is beneficial to the community. And it's also a social venue; I meet people with common interests."

“When I moved to New Jersey 27 years ago, I was amazed by the number of beautiful natural areas around the state that needed protection.”

– Holly Muller

Although all three women share the common goal of doing what they can to help protect New Jersey's land, they have much different backgrounds.

A grandmother, Anne is retired after 25 years of service to the Bedminster School, most recently as administrative assistant to the principal. A former information technology consultant with a focus in financial systems, Muriel also is a grandmother. Holly has four children and a mixture of professional environmental and library experience.

"When I moved to New Jersey 27 years ago, I was amazed by the number of beautiful natural areas around the state that needed protection," Holly said. "I really respect the mission of NJCF. The work of all conservation organizations is important, but I like the fact that NJCF is dedicated to conservation efforts that provide direct benefit to New Jersey."

For information about our volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals, please see the "Get Involved" section of our website at www.njconservation.org.

"Volunteers are vital to NJCF and we greatly appreciate the dedication Anne, Muriel and Holly have shown," said Stephanie Monahan, NJCF Director of Development and Outreach. "Whether it's supporting administrative functions every week or helping our Stewardship program blaze trails annually on National Trails Day, our volunteers play a key role in helping us save land and providing the public with beautiful natural areas to enjoy."

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 28

7 – 9 pm

**SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FARMERS
PRALLSVILLE MILLS, STOCKTON**

Learn about the many benefits of purchasing local produce. Mikey Azzara of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey will discuss how to increase your purchase of local food and the effort to provide more local food options in schools and restaurants. **For more information, please contact Marie Newell at Marie@njconservation.org or 609-773-0333.**

Saturday, March 31

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**THE WILLOW SCHOOL:
A CASE STUDY IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

Mark Biedron, Co-Founder and Trustee of The Willow School and NJCF Trustee, will discuss The Willow School in Bedminster, including its role in sustainability as it relates to building design and education. The group will then take the short drive to The Willow School where Mark will lead a tour of the green building and landscape.

Saturday, April 28

**NEW JERSEY'S 11TH ANNUAL LAND
CONSERVATION RALLY**

HYATT REGENCY NEW BRUNSWICK

National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore will provide a keynote address entitled "On The Land," a perspective of how we enjoy and mistreat the natural world. The Annual Land Conservation Rally, sponsored by NJCF and New Jersey's land conservation community, is a daylong event offering nearly 30 workshops, plenary sessions and networking opportunities. **Registration fees: Early Registration, \$70; Late Registration (after April 10), \$90; Students, \$40.**

Monday, April 30

5:30 – 7:30 pm

FULL MOON WALK AT BAMBOO BROOK

Discover night time secrets during a full moon walk. Participants should bring binoculars and flashlights, but attendees will be encouraged to use the moonlight as their guide.

Thursday, May 17

9:30 am – 11:30 am

BIOLOGY & NATURAL HISTORY OF TREES

Stephen Schuckman, a NJ Certified Tree Expert, will discuss the biology of trees, their role in the forest ecosystem and the impact of introduced trees and pests on our woodlands. Program fee: members, \$5; non-members, \$10.

Saturday, June 2

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

APSHAWA PRESERVE, WEST MILFORD

Come celebrate trails with a day of hiking at the Apschawa Preserve, a 569-acre preserve which contains vast tracts of mature hardwood forests and beautiful mountain streams and ponds. For more information, please contact Tim Morris at Tim@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728).

Saturday, August 11

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

**BUTTERFLY WALK & TIPS ON
CREATION OF A BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

NJCF biologist Emile DeVito, Ph.D. will enlighten you with little known facts about free-flying butterflies in a lovely park setting. Educational information on how to plant your butterfly garden will be presented.

Saturday, September 22

10 am – Noon

FALL FUN: JUST FOR KIDS

Bring along the kids for a scavenger hunt, fun games and prizes! Children of all ages are welcome to attend the event. Games will be appropriate for children between age 4 and 12.

Saturday, October 20

9 am – Noon

**6TH ANNUAL GREAT SWAMP WALK
MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE GREAT
SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Expert naturalists will lead you through NJCF's first conservation success, now a sanctuary and feeding area for numerous birds, amphibians and mammals.

Sunday, November 11

**ANNUAL DONALD JONES MEMORIAL HIKE
PRALLSVILLE MILLS, STOCKTON**

Explore NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Preserve during the annual hike to honor former NJCF President and statewide conservation leader Donald Jones.

Unless otherwise stated above, all programs are free and held at NJCF's Bamboo Brook office, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

For more information, please contact Lauren Ramos at Lauren@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728).

For updated information on NJCF events visit www.njconservation.org

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Welcome New Staff Francis Rapa



Fran joined NJCF in November as Project Manager – Delaware Bay Watershed and is responsible for NJCF's efforts in New Jersey's southernmost counties to preserve waterways, woodlands, farms and historic communities. He works to encourage public, private and grass-roots implementation of the recommendations and strategies of NJCF's report, *Charting a Course for the Delaware Bay Watershed*. A lifelong South Jersey resident, Fran has over 17 years experience in public policy and government

communications, including seven years with the staff of the NJ State Legislature. Most recently, he served as Communications Officer for the NJ Pinelands Commission, the agency that oversees land-use planning, development and natural resource protection in the million-acre Pinelands National Reserve. Previously, Fran held staff positions with the New Jersey Department of the Treasury and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Fran serves as Chairman of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission in Salem County; Vice Chair of the Woodstown Planning Board; member of the Woodstown Open Space Advisory Committee; and is a past Trustee of the Pilesgrove-Woodstown Recreation Association. He earned a B.A. in Law and Justice Studies from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). Fran lives in Woodstown.

Give the Gift of Open Space

Are you looking for a creative way to thank someone, celebrate a birthday, honor or memorialize a special person? There are several ways to recognize someone special:

Gift Memberships

A gift membership to NJCF of \$35 or more is a great way to celebrate a special occasion while sharing our mission to protect New Jersey's land and natural resources for the benefit of all. The recipient of the membership gift will receive a letter announcing your gift and introducing them to NJCF.

In Honor

Donations can be made to celebrate a special milestone, accomplishment or just to let someone know you are thinking about them. Both the donor and the honoree will be recognized in our newsletter.

In Memory

These gifts allow you to honor the memory of a family member, friend or other loved one. Both the donor and the person being memorialized will be included in the newsletter.

A Gift for Future Generations

Planned gifts, such as naming NJCF as a beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity or in your will or estate plans, offer you specific benefits, including the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will benefit New Jersey's threatened wildlife and natural areas, leaving a legacy for future generations.

To discuss these or other giving options, please contact NJCF Development Director Stephanie Monahan at 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) or Stephanie@njconservation.org.

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- Kraig Adams** – Associate Land Steward
- Erica Arles** – Administrative Assistant, Land & Stewardship
- Alix Bacon** – Regional Manager, Western Piedmont
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- Aria (Beth) Davisson** – Project Manager, Black River Greenway
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- Susan Schmidt** – Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
- Laura Szwak** – Statewide Greenways Director
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- Candy Ashmun** – Consultant

Photo Credit: Joel Sartore



Join National Geographic Photographer Joel Sartore

at the 11th Annual

Land Conservation Rally

Saturday, April 28, 2007
Hyatt Regency New Brunswick

Sartore's keynote address, "On The Land," will offer a perspective of how we both enjoy and mistreat the natural world. Sartore's passion for conservation is evident in his work which has appeared in more than 20 *National Geographic* stories as well as *Audubon*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Time*.

"At it's heart, 'On the Land' is a show that deals with our relationship with the Earth, for better or worse," said Sartore. "Can we make a living from a place without destroying it? Is there hope for sustainable land use, or is money all that matters, no matter the environmental consequences? Does our society value wilderness beyond the resources we can extract from it? These are all questions that the show examines in detail, using four different areas in various stages of development."

The Annual Land Conservation Rally, sponsored by NJCF and New Jersey's land conservation community is a daylong event offering nearly 30 workshops, plenary sessions and networking opportunities. Over 300 conservationists attend each year.

Registration fees: Early Registration, \$70; Late Registration (after April 10), \$90; Students, \$40. For more information, please contact Jennifer Hayden at Jennifer@njconservation.org or 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728) or visit our website at www.njconservation.org.

Visit the New Jersey Conservation Foundation online at:
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