

# New Jersey Conservation



The Ken Lockwood Gorge is a paradise for fishermen, hikers, nature lovers, runners, bicyclists and photographers – including Penny Carlson, who took this cover photo. New Jersey Conservation Foundation recently preserved land adjacent to the Gorge that protects water quality in the South Branch of the Raritan River. Read about it inside!

## 3 **Your Land. Your Water. Your Food. Your Future.**

The Campaign for Conservation has been launched to save thousands of acres of open space and farmland in New Jersey.

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**New Jersey Conservation**  
F O U N D A T I O N



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## From Our Executive Director

**Michele S. Byers**

### Preserved land: Good for body and mind

In today's online world, some might say that time spent in nature is a luxury.

But a growing body of evidence shows there are measurable and significant mental health benefits to spending time in green places like forests, parks and natural areas.

One Stanford University study found that people who walked in natural settings were happier and more attentive than those walking in places without trees or flowers. Further research showed why: it turns out that being in green places decreases neural activity in a part of the brain associated with harmful mental "rumination," or brooding.

Other studies have shown that spending time in nature boosts vitality – having both physical and mental energy – and the ability to function effectively at work.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is happy to promote this "eco-therapy" by preserving serene, natural places for relaxing and rejuvenating. This year, thanks to YOU, we preserved many such places.

Donors are giving generously to the Campaign for Conservation, which aims to raise \$30 million to preserve thousands of acres of open space and farmland throughout the state.

Read on to learn about the Campaign and its lands, including a former office park that is being converted into a public preserve, a wooded hillside abutting the Ken Lockwood Gorge and a major expansion of the Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens.

There are many more special places that need protection ... and we're excited to enter the next phase of the Campaign for Conservation. Every gift, large and small, helps save places to connect with nature, lands that protect clean water, farms that grow our food, and habitats where native plants and animals can thrive.

Thank you to our members, friends and supporters. You are our lifeblood, and together we can make a difference!

*Michele S. Byers*



New Jersey Conservation Foundation is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all.

We protect strategic lands through acquisition and stewardship, promote strong land use policies, and forge partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Since 1960, we have worked to protect the state's farmland, forests, parks, wetlands, water resources and special places.

For membership information, please visit our website at [www.njconservation.org](http://www.njconservation.org) or call us at 1-888-LANDSAVE. Our mailing address is 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931.





# CAMPAIGN *For* CONSERVATION

*Your* Land 🌿 *Your* Water 🌿 *Your* Food 🌿 *Your* Future

**IN MERCER COUNTY**, a former office park is being returned to its natural state as a new preserve. **IN HUNTERDON COUNTY**, one of the state's top trout fishing rivers is being protected by newly-preserved land. **IN THE PINE BARRENS**, a large acquisition has expanded the natural ecological treasure known as the Franklin Parker Preserve.

Continued on next page



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These land preservation projects were made possible by the early success of the Campaign for Conservation, an effort by New Jersey Conservation Foundation to raise \$30 million in public and private funds to preserve thousands of acres.

The “quiet” phase of Campaign for Conservation was launched in 2012. With land prices flat for the previous few years, and an array of exciting land preservation opportunities available, campaign donors responded with astounding generosity.

“New Jerseyans genuinely care about preserving what makes their home state a special place,” said Michele S. Byers, executive director.

Since then, private donors have given \$7.8 million to the campaign, and \$19.3 million was received in federal, state, county and municipal open space and farmland preservation capital grants. This funding enabled New Jersey Conservation Foundation to complete 10 preservation projects totaling nearly 2,000 acres.

With many more special places in need of protection, New Jersey Conservation Foundation entered the “public” phase of the Campaign for Conservation, which was kicked off on November 15 at a reception at Morven, the former governor’s mansion in Princeton.

“We hope New Jersey Conservation’s members, friends and supporters will be part of this exciting effort to create a legacy of preserved lands throughout the state,” said Kenneth H. Klipstein II, board president. “All gifts, large or small, help protect our drinking water, save lands that grow our food, safeguard wildlife habitats, and provide places where people can enjoy nature.”

The Campaign for Conservation focuses on seven geographical areas: the Highlands in the northwestern part of the state, the Hopewell Valley in Mercer County, Central Jersey’s Sourland Mountains, the Wickecheoke Creek region of Hunterdon County, parks and greenways in the city of Camden, the Pine Barrens, and the Delaware Bay watershed in southern New Jersey.

## Mount Rose Preserve: From Corporate Campus to Public Park

An innovative project to convert a 1950s corporate campus in Hopewell Township, Mercer County, into a public park took a big step forward with the April land purchase that saved 320 acres from major development. The property has been named the Mount Rose Preserve after a nearby historic village and ridge.

A partnership of a dozen public agencies and nonprofit organizations, led by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Hopewell Valley Citizens Group, worked together to purchase land located at the former Western Electric/AT&T property on Carter Road from owner Equus Capital Partners.

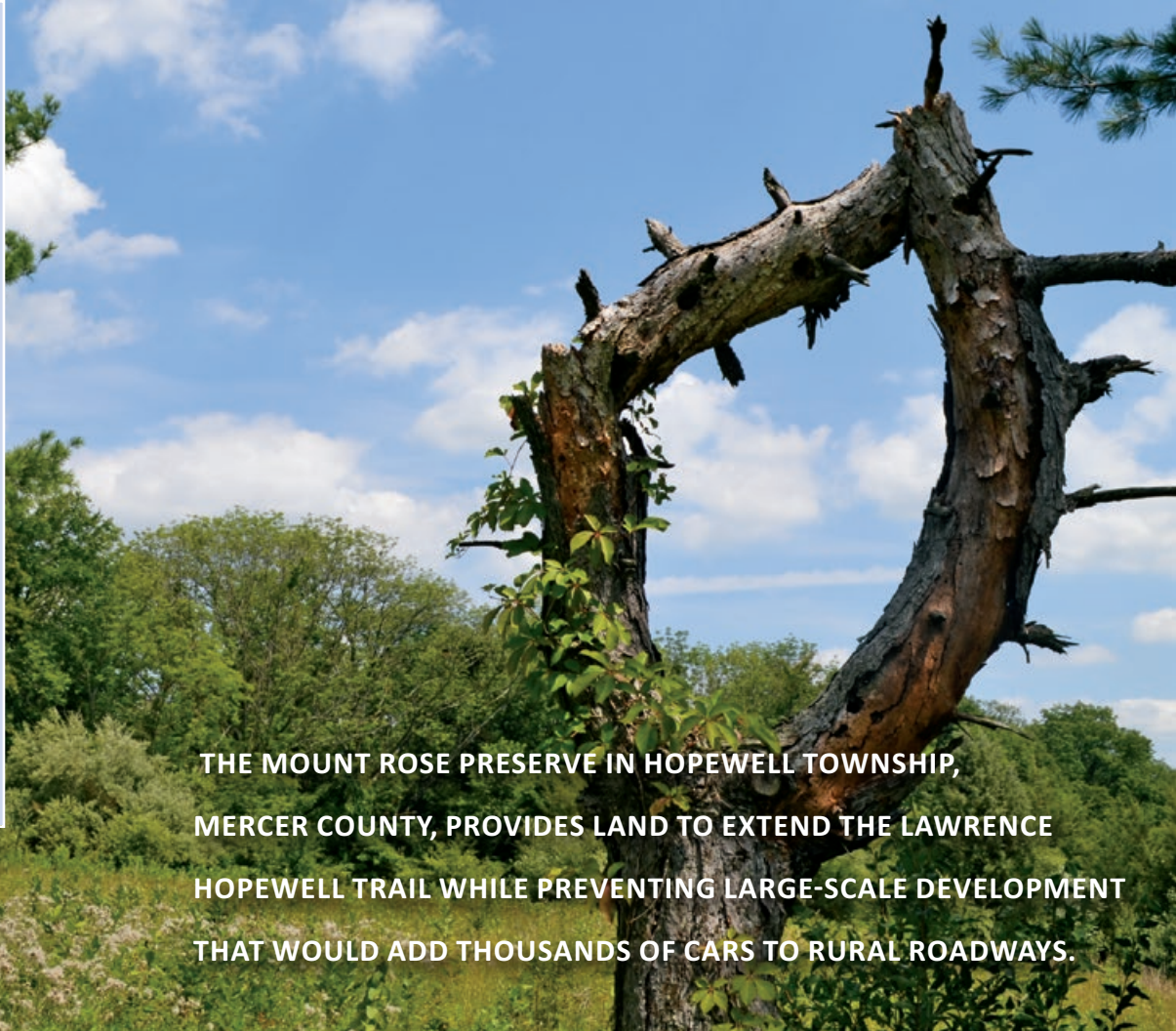
In a separate transaction, Mercer County and Hopewell Township purchased an additional 11 acres on the east side of Carter Road. New Jersey Conservation holds a right of first refusal on another 11 acres on the west side of Carter Road,

## THANK YOU

### MOUNT ROSE PRESERVE PROJECT PARTNERS!

Mercer County  
Hopewell Township  
New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Green Acres Program  
Friends of Hopewell Valley  
Open Space  
Hopewell Valley Citizens Group  
Columbia Environmental  
Law Clinic  
Stony Brook-Millstone  
Watershed Association  
Friends of Princeton Open Space  
Hopewell Borough  
Pennington Borough  
Princeton  
D&R Greenway Land Trust  
Lawrence Township

THE MOUNT ROSE PRESERVE IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP,  
MERCER COUNTY, PROVIDES LAND TO EXTEND THE LAWRENCE  
HOPEWELL TRAIL WHILE PREVENTING LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT  
THAT WOULD ADD THOUSANDS OF CARS TO RURAL ROADWAYS.







**HIKING ON THE UNPAVED LANE ALONG THE SOUTH BRANCH OF THE RARITAN RIVER IS A POPULAR ACTIVITY IN THE KEN LOCKWOOD GORGE. NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION RECENTLY PRESERVED 50 ACRES OF WOODED HILLSIDE PROPERTY ABUTTING THE GORGE.**

where an abandoned, derelict hotel-conference center is being demolished.

The project settles years of litigation brought by the Hopewell Valley Citizens Group challenging commercial development of the rural property. The site had received preliminary site plan approval for office buildings totaling 800,000 square feet, along with roads and parking. Traffic studies found it would generate up to 4,000 commuter vehicle trips a day on the region's rural, local roads.

"Developing this land as proposed would have had permanent impacts on the region, and we're extremely grateful to all of our partners for making this preservation project possible," said Michele. "This was a massive collaborative effort to settle litigation and create a new public park."

"The resolution of the litigation via this settlement and land purchase is a win for everyone. It is very important to

save this land from development and protect our natural resources," said Katherine V. Dresdner, general counsel for the Hopewell Valley Citizens Group.

The Preserve will provide land for passive recreation, as well as habitat for threatened and endangered species. It provides for the completion of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail, a 30-mile-long regional trail system for walkers and bicyclists.

"Mercer County and Hopewell Township provided critical leadership and funding," said Michele.

### Protecting the Ken Lockwood Gorge, a Highlands gem

The Ken Lockwood Gorge, with its forested hills rising steeply from the boulder-strewn South Branch of the Raritan River, is one of New Jersey's most beautiful places.

Fly fishermen cast for trout in its pristine waters. Nature lovers watch great

blue herons, mink, kingfishers and other wildlife. Walkers, joggers, hikers and bicyclists are drawn to the Columbia Trail, a multi-use trail crossing the Gorge; and River Road, an unpaved lane hugging the riverbank.

But the Ken Lockwood Gorge is more than just a pretty place; the South Branch is a major drinking water supply source for more than 1.5 million New Jersey residents.

The Gorge's water supply and recreation amenities just received additional protection, with the permanent preservation of 50 acres of wooded hillside sloping down to the river.

"The Ken Lockwood Gorge is truly one of New Jersey's gems, and we're thrilled to add additional lands to buffer the gorge and increase public access and enjoyment," said Michele.

The purchase was made possible by a partnership including New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the state Green

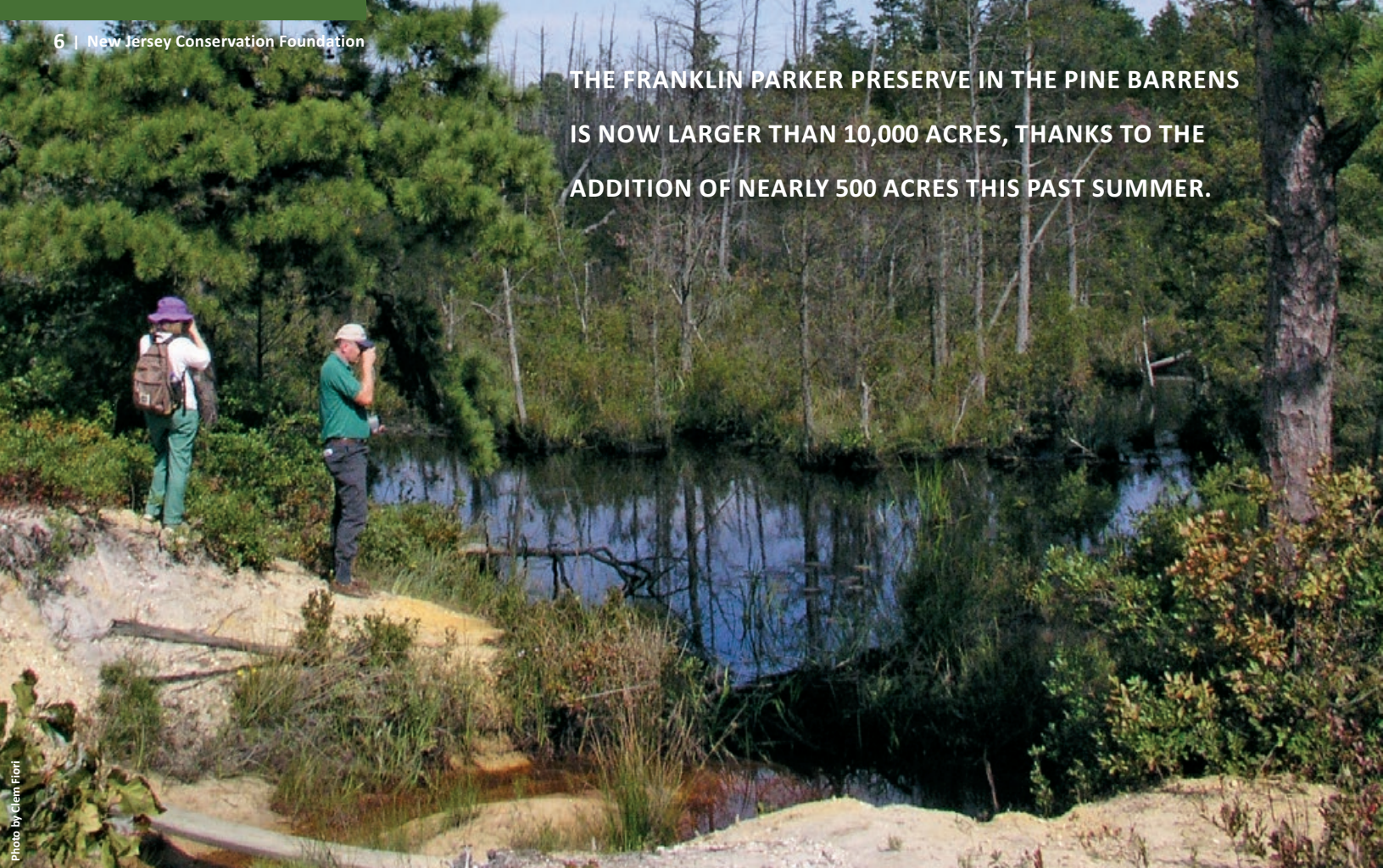
**CAMPAIGN**  
*For*  
**CONSERVATION**  
**VISION**

To save the best of New Jersey's nature, we will:

- Preserve significant lands in every corner of the state
- Create an interconnected system of parks, trails, farms and open space
- Provide world-class access to New Jersey's natural areas
- Create durable collaborations with partner organizations to steward these lands



THE FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE IN THE PINE BARRENS IS NOW LARGER THAN 10,000 ACRES, THANKS TO THE ADDITION OF NEARLY 500 ACRES THIS PAST SUMMER.



Acres Program, Hunterdon County, Raritan Headwaters Association, Hunterdon Land Trust, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the Leavens Foundation.

### Expanding the Franklin Parker Preserve

The Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens expanded to more than 10,000 acres in June, after New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased almost 500 acres from the Zemel family.

The forested property in Woodland Township, Burlington County, was annexed to the preserve, increasing its size from 9,770 to 10,243 acres and marking the first major expansion of the Preserve since it was established in 2003.

The Zemel property increases recreational opportunities at Franklin Parker Preserve and protects Pine Barrens wildlife habitat and the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, which provides drinking water for one million residents and millions more visitors.

The parcel is dominated by pitch pine uplands and contains the headwaters of two tributaries of the Wading River. It is

traversed by old sand roads that can be converted to trails for hiking and biking.

The purchase was funded by the state Green Acres Program, the Victoria Foundation, the William Penn Foundation, the Open Space Institute, the Helen & William Mazer Foundation and the state Pinelands Commission, and capital campaign funds raised by New Jersey Conservation, including a lead gift from Nora Hayes.

### More Open Space and Farmland Preserved

Other properties to date preserved through the campaign include:

- 50 acres of farmland in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, expanding the Hill & Dale Preserve to 192 acres.
- 120 acres in Harmony and White townships, Warren County, connecting 1,500 acres of preserved land in the Scotts Mountain area.
- 153 acres of rugged forest land bordering serene Johnson Lake in Byram Township, Sussex County.

- 350 acres in Hillsborough Township, Somerset County, expanding the county's Sourland Mountain Preserve.
- 94 acres in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, adding to a 1,000-acre greenbelt of preserved lands along the Wickecheoke Creek and its tributaries.
- 155 acres of peach orchards, vegetable fields and livestock fields in the Dutch Neck farming region of Hopewell Township, Cumberland County.

And more than a dozen additional land preservation projects are currently underway, totaling nearly 3,000 acres.

"New Jersey is the most densely populated state, and we're projected to reach full build-out by the middle of the century," noted Michele. "Now is the time to secure large parcels of open space and farmland connecting to other preserved lands. If we wait, it could be too late."

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is planning a series of "open lands" events in the spring of 2016 to invite the public to visit these special places preserved through the Campaign for Conservation.

For more information about the capital campaign, and how YOU can support this enduring effort to preserve and protect New Jersey's lands, please contact Kathleen Ward at [Kathleen@njconservation.org](mailto:Kathleen@njconservation.org) or 908-997-0723.



2015

# GAINING GROUND

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved nearly 1,800 acres throughout the state to date in 2015. These include preserved family farms that produce local foods, and natural areas that safeguard clean drinking water, provide wildlife habitat and offer scenic beauty and outdoor recreation.

**THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE THESE LANDS!**

## 30 Projects to date\* in 2015

▲ NJ Conservation Foundation Owned: 942.67 acres (Fee or Easement)

★ Preserved in Partnership: 836.00 acres

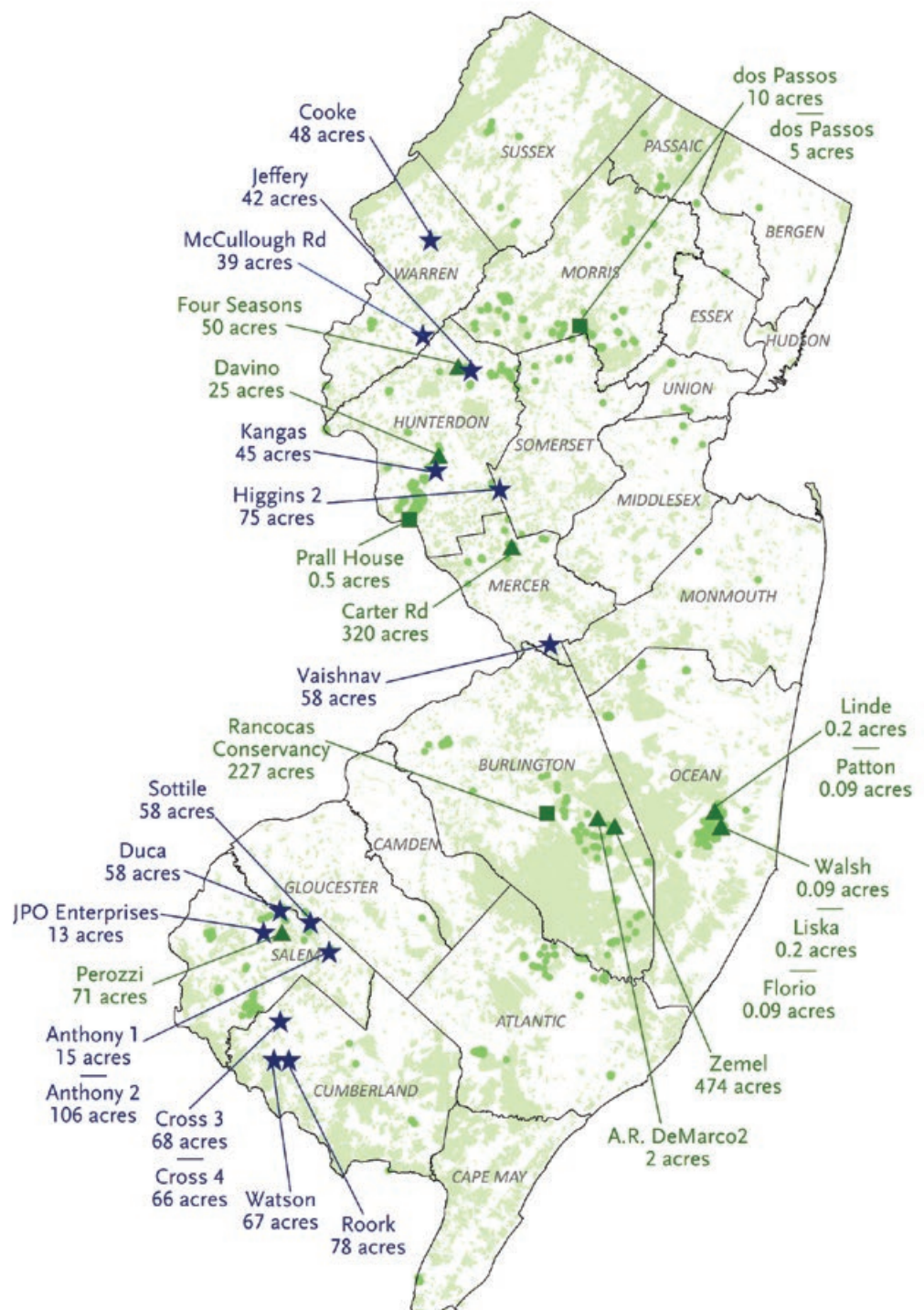
Total Land Preserved: 1,778.67 acres

\* as of Oct 16, 2015

■ NJ Conservation Foundation Land Transfers to Other Agencies: 242.50 acres

● NJ Conservation Foundation Owned & Managed Properties (Fee or Easement)

■ Preserved Land (Open Space & Farmland)





# Lower LG headquarters a win-win for Palisades



Photo by Anthony Taranto

**The iconic vista of the Hudson River Palisades, which has inspired residents, visitors and artists for generations, will endure.**

Following nearly a year of negotiations – led by Scenic Hudson, Natural Resources Defense Council and New Jersey Conservation Foundation – an agreement was reached with LG Electronics in June on a low-rise design for the company’s new headquarters in Englewood Cliffs. All parties called the resolution a win.

“The Palisades cliffs are a national treasure, viewed by millions of people a

year,” said Michele S. Byers, executive director. “Thanks to more than a century of preservation efforts, the inspiring view of the Palisades from the Hudson River looks very much as it did when Henry Hudson anchored his ship beneath them in 1609. “The agreement to reduce the height of the proposed LG Electronics building demonstrates that economic vitality and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive,” she added.

## Quarrying Threats Prompt Park Creation

In the 1880s, the Palisades were threatened by rock quarrying, and a prominent feature known as “Indian Head” was destroyed by blasting. Englewood women and the New Jersey Federation of Women’s Clubs struck back and launched a campaign to protect the Palisades.

Their successful campaign ultimately led to the creation of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Because of the Palisades’ place in history and unique geological formation, the National Park Service later designated them a National Historic Landmark and a National Natural Landmark, a rare dual distinction.

For decades, the Palisades towns north of the George Washington Bridge acted as guardians of a national treasure, preserving the unspoiled view through zoning laws that limited building heights to a maximum of 35 feet.

In 2012, Englewood Cliffs broke with tradition by granting LG Electronics a variance for a 143-foot office tower. A legal and public relations battle ensued.

## Former Governors Speak Out

In early 2013, New Jersey Conservation Foundation enlisted the aid of four former governors – Brendan Byrne, James Florio, Thomas Kean and Christine Todd Whitman – all of whom are current honorary trustees of the Foundation.

The four governors sent a joint letter to the CEO of LG Electronics, asking for a low-rise alternative that would preserve the integrity of the Palisades while allowing for economic development. They also wrote an opinion column published by the New York Times.

## Success!

As part of the legal settlement, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and partner groups pledged to support LG in securing necessary municipal approvals so the new headquarters can move forward. The new building design calls for a five-story north wing just shy of 70 feet

high, and a three-story south wing. LG will implement landscape, lighting and other design features to further reduce visual impacts.

The four governors commended LG Electronics on the compromise. The agreement, they said, “demonstrates that a strong economy goes hand-in-hand with strong environmental protection. With the construction of the new sustainable, low-rise LG headquarters, New Jersey will retain a solid corporate partner along with much needed jobs and tax revenues. And one of America’s most visible natural and historic landmarks will be protected for future generations.”

## ‘Preservation Zone’ Proposed

While the Palisades vista seems secure for the time being, further protection is needed to ensure its permanence.

State Senator Bob Smith has introduced a bill (S2025) that would create a “preservation zone” to protect the Palisades’ iconic viewshed. It would extend 2,000 feet inland from the top of the Palisades cliffs and cap building heights at 35 feet in three Bergen County municipalities: Englewood Cliffs, Tenafly and Alpine. The governing bodies in all three towns have passed resolutions in support of the legislation.

**Please contact your state Senators and Assembly representatives and urge them to protect the Palisades by supporting bill S2025/A3183.**

**To find your district’s legislators, go to [www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp)**





# Dutch Treat: Saving Land in Historic Farming Community

Photo by Fran Rapa

Located along the north shore of Cumberland County's winding Cohansey River, the Dutch Neck region is a rich mosaic of farms, tidal marshes and woodlands within Hopewell Township. Its agricultural history dates back to the late 1600s, when settlers were drawn by fertile soils and a long growing season.

Preserving Dutch Neck's farmland and agricultural heritage has been a New Jersey Conservation Foundation priority for many years.

We recently partnered with the Cumberland County Agriculture Development Board, the Open Space Institute and the William Penn Foundation to permanently preserve three farms in Dutch Neck.

First came the 25-acre Blew farm in 2014. This summer, the 112-acre Rook farm and 67-acre Watson farm followed.

"In many respects, Hopewell Township is the heart of the agricultural

community in a county which itself is the heart of agriculture for the state," noted Matthew Pisarski, assistant planning director for Cumberland County. And the Dutch Neck area, nestled in a wide bend of the Cohansey, may be the agricultural heart of Hopewell.

Dutch Neck's soils are among the best in New Jersey, and Hopewell's far-south location on the peninsula between the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean gives it milder temperatures than most places in the Garden State.

In addition to protecting a way of life, preserving Dutch Neck's farmland benefits

wildlife and water.

The Cohansey River and its marshes provide habitat for bald eagles, osprey, grassland birds, migratory shorebirds and other wildlife. And beneath Dutch Neck is the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, which provides billions of gallons of clean water each year to residents, farmers, businesses and industry in South Jersey.

The three newly-preserved Dutch Neck farms join numerous other parcels of preserved open space and farmland, including the state's Cohansey River Wildlife Management Area.



## STEP INTO NATURE CHALLENGE

## Nature Lover Blossoms in Outdoor Challenge

**Beth Degen's middle daughter, 11-year-old Skyler Kummer, has always been an "extremely shy child" who hesitates to assert herself.**

But a new, more confident Skyler – one who adores hiking, exploring the outdoors and planning trips – emerged this summer after her family accepted our Step Into Nature Challenge.

It all started when New Jersey Conservation Foundation challenged individuals and families to get outside, get in shape and have an adventure. The challenge could be anything that motivates you to improve your health and enjoy nature ... hiking in the woods, identifying bird species, bicycling, kayaking, climbing mountains, and so on.

For their challenge, Beth and her three daughters decided to explore a dozen parks and preserves across the state.

To Beth's surprise, sixth grader Skyler fell in love with the challenge and couldn't get enough. They hiked Hacklebarney State Park in the Highlands, visited Sunset Beach and Cape May Point parks, canoed and picked blueberries in the Pine Barrens, climbed Barnegat Light, saw historic sites at Allaire State Park, discovered trails at Cheesequake State Park, sailed on the schooner A.J. Meerwald (New Jersey's official tall ship) and much more.

According to Beth, Skyler took charge, choosing the agenda for family outings. "She has a huge map of New Jersey on her wall. She researches the parks, prints out the maps and plans our routes. She's our little navigator."

By the end of summer, the family had long since surpassed their challenge of visiting 12 parks. But they have no plans to stop.

"Before the challenge I didn't realize how much I like to explore the state parks of New Jersey," said Skyler. "One of the parks that I'm planning for the future is Stokes State Forest."

"We want to make it a point to get to all 40-plus state parks and forests," added Beth. "The Step Into Nature Challenge has been fantastic for us. Skyler is such a shy kid, and this has really helped her break out of her shell."

Some of the other Step Into Nature challenges included tagging 50 turtles for research, identifying 100 different bird species while hiking 100 miles, kayaking in six different places, learning to identify 15 wild edible plants, and 10 hours of swimming.



Photo by Beth Degen

Skyler Kummer enjoys climbing on rocks along the river at Hacklebarney State Park.

It's easy to join New Jersey Conservation Foundation online – visit the website at

[www.njconservation.org/donate.htm](http://www.njconservation.org/donate.htm)

**Become a Member Today!**





# PENNEAST PIPELINE BATTLE ESCALATES

**The fight to keep pipelines off environmentally-sensitive lands intensified this fall, as the PennEast natural gas consortium officially filed its pipeline application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC.**

PennEast is proposing to build a 36-inch compressed gas pipeline along a proposed 118-mile pipeline route from Luzerne County, Pa., to Mercer County, N.J.

In New Jersey, the route would cross more than 4,000 acres of preserved open space and farmland in Hunterdon and Mercer counties, along with the property of over 500 private homeowners, and 31 pristine streams with the state's highest water quality designation.

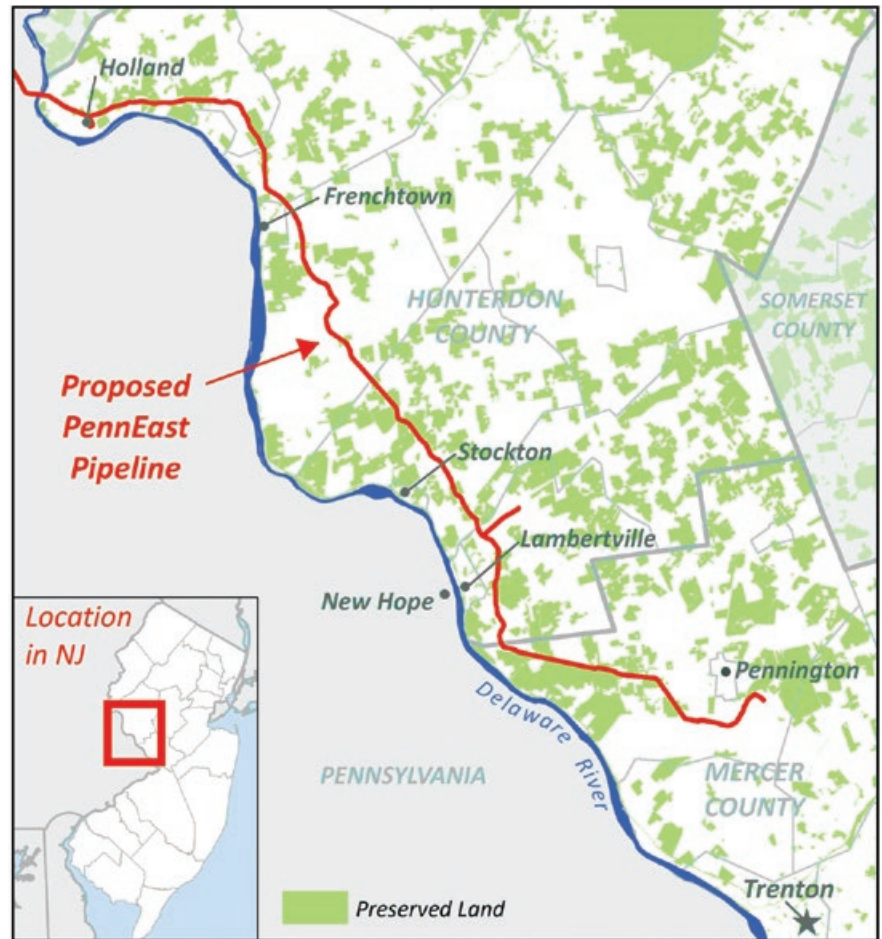
New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners are opposing PennEast, due to the unacceptable impacts to preserved lands and natural resources, and the lack of a comprehensive review to determine whether the gas is needed or better alternatives exist.

## Growing Opposition

For more than a year, the vast majority of New Jersey homeowners along the PennEast pipeline route have objected strenuously to the proposal. One hundred percent of New Jersey municipalities along the route passed resolutions against the pipeline, and federal, state and county officials from both parties are speaking out against it.

Tom Gilbert, who started in June as Campaign Director for Energy, Climate and Natural Resources with New Jersey Conservation Foundation, is coordinating efforts to fight the pipeline.

"Having spent many years working to pass state and local ballot measures to ensure continued funding for open space and farmland preservation efforts in New Jersey, I felt compelled to join the fight to protect our precious preserved lands from this new threat and to help move the state forward on a better path to clean energy," he said.



## Tom Gilbert – Campaign Director for Energy, Climate & Natural Resources



Tom Gilbert brings more than 20 years of experience directing successful land preservation and environmental advocacy campaigns at the federal, state and local levels. Prior to joining New Jersey Conservation Foundation, he served for seven years as senior conservation finance director for the Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit. As part of that role, he chaired the New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition, which worked to secure voter approval of two statewide open space funding measures: an open space bond referendum in 2009 and an open space constitutional amendment in 2014. Previously, he served as executive director of the Highlands Coalition, where he worked closely with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and others to pass federal and New Jersey state legislation protecting critical lands and drinking water sources in the Highlands. He is also a founding board member of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.





Hunterdon and Mercer County residents affected by the proposed PennEast pipeline made their feelings known at a protest in late September in Delaware Township.

**YOU  
CAN  
HELP!**

To learn more about PennEast and other pipeline proposals in New Jersey, visit our website at [www.njconservation.org/currentissues.htm](http://www.njconservation.org/currentissues.htm).



Photos by Robert Bruschini



A photograph showing two men wading in a shallow pond or creek. The man on the left is wearing a light blue shirt, dark waders, and a tan cap, and is using a long-handled tool to search the bottom. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored shirt, dark waders, and a hat, and is pointing towards the water. The background is a dense forest of green trees and foliage. The water is calm with some ripples.

# Hunting invasive mussels ... and hoping not to find them

**A small band of mussel hunters methodically prowled the shorelines of creeks and ponds in Hunterdon County this past summer and fall in search of freshwater mollusks.**

No, they weren't foraging for a new gourmet food. In fact, they hoped to come up empty-handed.

These "hunters" were staff members and volunteers tasked with tracking down *Sinanodonta woodiana*, a species of freshwater mollusk commonly known as the Chinese pond mussel.

As the name suggests, this mussel is not native to North America. It's native to China and eastern Russia, and its larvae "hitchhike" in the gills of live fish shipped to fish farms overseas. Once established in a new location, it crowds out native mussels.

Chinese pond mussels were most likely introduced in Hunterdon County years ago at a fish farm in Raritan Township.

For 35 years, a fish farmer imported carp fingerlings from China, raised them in eight spring-fed ponds and sold the grown fish to wholesalers in New York's Chinatown.

In 2007, when he decided to discontinue his business, New Jersey Conservation Foundation acquired the 51-acre property as part of the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve.





Photo by Alexander Mirkvicka

The stewardship staff soon discovered invasive bighead carp in the ponds. In 2010, we began efforts to eradicate bighead carp. But there was an unpleasant surprise, noted Stewardship Director Tim Morris: "We noticed clam-like mollusks in the ponds that none of us recognized."

We contacted the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team for help, and they consulted with other experts. Eventually, the mollusks were identified through DNA testing as *Sinanodonta woodiana*. It was the first time the species had been documented in North America.

The chemical applied to the ponds to eradicate bighead carp also killed most of the Chinese pond mussels. However, some mussels survived, and shells were found immediately downstream.

Earlier this year, the Invasive Species Strike Team surveyed the Wickecheoke Creek watershed and developed a plan to eradicate any additional live mussels.

As of mid-October, staff and volunteers had covered about seven miles of streams. So far they haven't found any live mussels, but they're happy to come up empty-handed.

"It's rewarding to be involved in an effort that lets us know our waterways are safe from the threat that this species presents," said Strike Team volunteer Ed Leydon, a retired attorney. "Out of 12 native species of freshwater mussels in New Jersey, nine are classified as endangered, threatened, or as a species of special concern. They certainly don't need any competition from Chinese pond mussels."

## A Piney Brew?



The New Jersey Pine Barrens are a botanist's dream, with many rare and iconic plants. But would the plants taste good in beer? That's what Gene Muller, owner of the Somerdale-based Flying Fish Brewery, wanted to find out.

Last summer, Muller took a hike through the Franklin Parker Preserve with Russell Juelg, our Pine Barrens land steward and educator, and Becky Free of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

Muller said afterward that he's hoping to cook up a special Pine Barrens brew flavored with goldenrod, wintergreen and pine needles, using a culture made with wild yeasts gathered from the preserve.

After the recipe gets government formula approval, he added, Flying Fish can brew it for late winter/early spring release. We'll drink to that!

In the meantime, check out the Franklin Parker Preserve for yourself!

TO DOWNLOAD A TRAIL MAP, GO TO [www.njconservation.org/franklinparkerpreserve.htm](http://www.njconservation.org/franklinparkerpreserve.htm).



Photo by Becky Free

Russell Juelg of NJ Conservation Foundation, left, gives a tour of the preserve to Barry Holsten and Gene Muller of Flying Fish.



*thank  
you!*

**New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges donors who made contributions between January 1, 2015 and August 31, 2015. With your support, we will work hard to preserve and protect New Jersey's natural lands.**

## New Members

Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2015

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Adams  
Patti Allen  
Carleen Baily  
Mary Ellen Balady  
Gail and William Baumbach  
June Bente  
Mary Beth Boland  
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Ginny, Todd, & Emily Whitaker  
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## \$500 and Above Gifts

Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2015

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Millicent Anisfield  
Penelope Ayers  
Edward and Cynthia Babbott  
Mary and Dick Benioff  
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## Memorials

Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2015

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John Patrick Fitzgerald  
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Robert W. Kent, Sr.  
 Robert and Joyce Angiuoli  
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 Stanley and Patricia Barry  
 Kathy Bradley  
 Beth A. Cupo  
 Sandra and Daniel Grzybowski  
 Jane Takacs

## Tributes

Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2015

Michele S. Byers  
 Clem and Joanna Fiori  
 Glenn and Maria Hauser  
 Betty Ann Kelly  
 David and Mary Moore  
 Mary Jane Moore  
 Louis and Teri Piancone  
 Karen A. Richards  
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 Bob and Barbara Wolfe

Emile DeVito  
 William and Elizabeth Wolfe

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 Staff of Amy S. Greene  
 Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Greg Romano  
 Dr. Daniel A. Harris and Ms. Jane Butters

Dr. Scott Kalish  
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Whether it's farmland, woodland  
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 Foundation protects open spaces  
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Visit our website at [www.njconservation.org/donate.htm](http://www.njconservation.org/donate.htm)





## CREATURE FEATURES: Helping rare animals

**From salamanders to bobcats, from bats to pine snakes,  
New Jersey is full of threatened and endangered animals.**

Documentary filmmaker Jared Flesher wants to raise awareness of these critters ... and we want to help!

This past summer, we entered into a partnership with Jared to help secure financial support for "The Creature Show," a new internet video series about the Garden State's threatened and endangered animals.

"New Jersey has salamanders, bats, snakes, birds, turtles and many more species that are struggling due to habitat loss, invasive species, diseases and climate change," explained Michele Byers, executive director. "Jared believes that by telling their stories, more New Jerseyans will come to appreciate these unique and fascinating creatures and support efforts to help them."

As the Creature Show's fiscal sponsor, New Jersey Conservation Foundation will accept funds to support The Creature Show. We'll also help The Creature Show reach a larger audience and provide filming locations, such as the Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens.

"I think the missions of The Creature Show and New Jersey Conservation Foundation are closely aligned, which are to preserve biodiversity in New Jersey," said Flesher, a resident of East Amwell Township in Hunterdon County.



Jared Flesher shoots footage for a Creature Show episode on Pine Barrens snakes during a visit to the Franklin Parker Preserve. To view The Creature Show and learn more about the project, visit [www.creatureshow.com](http://www.creatureshow.com). Also involved in filming is cinematographer Christian Schuller of Morristown.

Photo by Christian Schuller

## BACK TO SCHOOL

## Chainsaws, marketing plans and more

### Do you know how to fell a tree with a chainsaw ... without getting hurt?

Dozens of land trust staff members and volunteers now know, thanks to specialized training offered through the New Jersey Land Trust Network.

"The best thing is that we can now choose almost any tree and make it fall wherever we need it to fall. Safely and confidently!" said Bill Scullion, one graduate of the chainsaw course. Knowing how to properly use a chainsaw is essential for Bill, a land steward at New Jersey Conservation Foundation's South Jersey preserves.

Chainsaw training was just one of a dozen workshops offered in 2015 by the Land Trust Network, which organizes continuing education for those who steward, acquire and defend New Jersey's land and water. Programs are also designed to improve the efficiency and

effectiveness of nonprofit organizations.

Other 2015 workshops included developing a marketing plan, managing wetlands, presenting financial information to nonprofit boards, and using storytelling to communicate conservation messages.

At the workshop on "Developing a Marketing Plan," Rutgers communications professor Dr. Matthew Weber offered a custom marketing plan developed by his students. This saves organizations the time and expense of doing their own, and gives students practical experience with real clients.

The Highlands Coalition was one of the nonprofits to take advantage of this opportunity. "We are looking forward to the process and the end result. Thanks for making this happen for us!" said Highlands Coalition Executive Director Julia Somers.

The Land Trust Network also acts as a forum for discussion and problem-solving.

Caroline Katmann, Executive Director

of Sourland Conservancy, requested that the network convene to discuss pending state legislation on commercial deer harvesting. The result was a list of recommendations to improve the bill, to be shared with legislators. One participant from the NJ Farm Bureau noted this is an issue where farmers and conservationists share mutual goals and can work in partnership.

The Network partnered with the Watershed Institute on several educational programs. "We value our partnership with The Watershed Institute, a program of Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association," says Laura Szwak, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Director of Education & Outreach.

Thanks to Victoria Foundation for supporting the Network's programs, and making them affordable and accessible to New Jersey's conservation nonprofits.



# Welcome New Trustees

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes Neil Grossman of Lebanon Township and Joseph Lemond of Warren Township to the Board of Trustees.



**Neil Grossman**

A licensed professional planner in the state of New Jersey, Neil holds a Masters in Urban Planning degree from New York University. Previously, he worked on Wall Street as managing partner of Ward, Grossman & Co., a New York and American Stock Exchange member firm. Neil and his wife and daughter live on a preserved horse farm in Lebanon Township. Prior to moving there in 1997, he served as a Township Council and Planning Board member in the township of Mahwah. Neil has spent more than 20 years serving on land trust boards; he currently is a board member and treasurer of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

Joe is a partner at Herold Law, PA in Warren Township, where he has practiced law for more than 20 years in the trusts and estates area, including charitable gift planning. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and English from Rutgers College, a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and a master of law in taxation from New York University School of Law. Joe is a past chair and Executive Committee member of the Tax Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association, and a member of the Section of Taxation of the American Bar Association. Joe also serves on the boards of the Bonnie Brae School and the Summit Medical Group Foundation.



**Joseph Lemond**

## Meet Jack Sapoch, Babbott Fund Intern

**"I saw more of New Jersey than I previously knew existed"**

Jack Sapoch of Hopewell, a student at Bates College, found plenty of variety in his work with us last summer as a Babbott Fund intern. Jack tells about his experiences:

"I didn't want to waste my summer being indoors and beholden to sedentary tasks. I wanted new experiences, I wanted to meet new people, and I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone. So I went with what I care about: local parks and preserved lands. New Jersey Conservation Foundation turned out to be a wonderful fit.

I got the opportunity to dip my toes into many different waters. Under the purview of Laura Szwak, I compiled comprehensive notes on Franklin Parker Grant nominees and helped find a venue for the 2016 NJ Land Conservation Rally.

From there, I was treated to a medley of work experience. I participated in a Land Trust Network roundtable, toured the Franklin Parker Preserve with donors, looked at a prospective property in Vineland, photographed sites threatened by the PennEast pipeline and attended a town hall meeting.

With policy analyst Amy Hansen I observed lobbying firsthand at the State House in Trenton, while with Marie Newell I assisted with the stewardship of trails along the Wickecheoke Creek and the search for invasive Chinese pond mussels.

Truly, I got to experience a little bit of everything, and for that I am grateful. I saw more of New Jersey than I previously knew existed and have come to appreciate what a beautiful state I live in. I walk away with a deeper appreciation for that beauty, as well as a better understanding of the powers that are threatening it."

The Babbott Fund was established in honor of Edward F. Babbott, a former New Jersey Conservation Foundation trustee who served for 44 years. The goal of the internship program is to train young leaders in the field of land conservation.

## Staff

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**Alix Bacon**, *Regional Manager, Western Piedmont*

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**Greg Romano**, *Assistant Director & Director of Statewide Land Acquisition*

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**Susan Schmidt**, *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*

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**Kathleen Ward**, *Director of Development & Communications*





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**20TH ANNUAL**

# New Jersey Land Conservation Conference

Friday, March 18, 2016  
Wyndham Garden Hotel,  
Trenton, NJ



Join us at the Rally for a full day of educational workshops and discussions centered around the theme, "The Future of Land Conservation ... the Next 20 Years."

For information and registration, go to [www.njconservation.org/rally](http://www.njconservation.org/rally)