

New Jersey Conservation



Of New Jersey's native wild animals, few are more shy and elusive than the bobcat, captured in this photo by Tami Hrycak. Bobcats are on the state's endangered species list, and are one of the many reasons New Jersey Conservation Foundation preserves and stewards natural lands.

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Stewarding the Land

What does it take to care for 24,000 acres of land across New Jersey? Find out how the stewardship team does it!

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Keeping Dreams Alive

For Lisa Perozzi, permanently preserving her horse farm in Salem County has put it on a stronger financial course

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Welcome, Governors!

James Florio and Christine Todd Whitman, have joined the roster of honorary trustees.



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From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

24,000 Acres and Counting

In the conservation business, every acre of land permanently preserved is cause for celebration. But the completion of a preservation project isn't the end of the story. Often, it's just the beginning!

The next step is stewardship. When New Jersey Conservation Foundation acquires land, it is important to develop a plan to care for it in perpetuity.

That means considering each property's attributes carefully. Is it home to threatened or endangered animals or plants? Is there a river or stream that's a drinking water resource? Are there great views or special spots where a new trail can be routed? Are there problems that should be remediated?

There's no one-size-fits-all approach; every property is judged on its own merits. New Jersey Conservation Foundation's top-notch stewardship team has deep expertise in evaluating and managing lands for recreation and natural resources.

We currently own and manage about 24,000 acres all over New Jersey, including over 50 miles of trails. To learn more about the stewardship staff, volunteers and their work, check out the story and photos on pages 4–7.

Speaking of good stewards, I wish to note that L. Keith Reed retired from our Board of Trustees in late April after eight years as president. Keith remains a stalwart champion of New Jersey Conservation Foundation and we couldn't ask for a better friend. We will miss him.

Thank you for your steadfast support over the years! We could not preserve land – and steward it – without you!



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 or call us at 1-888-LANDSAVE. Our mailing address is 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

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SPRING IN BLOOM

GO OUTDOORS AND DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF NATURE!

New Jersey's native spring flowers are a treat for the eyes and senses after a long, cold winter!

Photographer and naturalist Blaine Rothauser, a longtime volunteer for New Jersey Conservation Foundation, provided these two striking spring views.

Above is a luna moth landing on a native iris in the Great Swamp of Morris County, and at right are the delicate blossoms of a red maple tree.





Photo by Scott Breeman

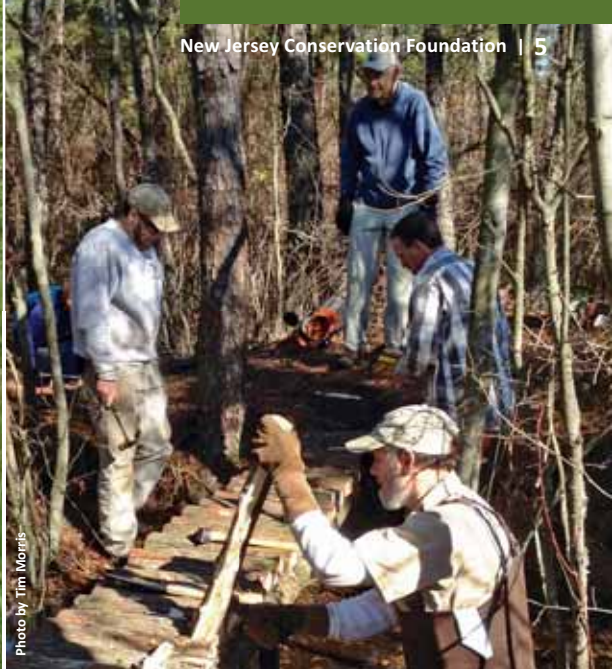
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What does it take
to care for
24,000
acres of land?



Photo by Russell Juelg



Stewarding Natural Lands



New Jersey Conservation owns about 24,000 acres of land across the Garden State ... everything from rugged mountain terrain in the Highlands to tidal marshes in the Delaware Bay watershed to pitch pine forests and cedar swamps in the Pine Barrens.

Managing these geographically diverse places for outstanding recreational and educational experiences – while protecting and enhancing their plant and animal communities – presents many challenges.

“It’s an interesting job because it’s a combination of everything from the physical work of creating trails to dealing with complex legal issues,” said Tim Morris, director of stewardship.

On any given day, staff and volunteers might be building and maintaining trails,

keeping an eye out for bald eagle nests, installing “beaver deceiver” pipes to route water around dams, restoring degraded wetlands to their natural hydrology, teaching kids about nature, removing invasive plants and replacing them with native species, leading a hike, cleaning up litter and dumped materials, or helping out with scientific research like tracking endangered pine snakes.

By necessity, the land stewardship team of Tim Morris, Russell Juelg, Bill Scullion, Gerard Sauchelli, Scott Breeman,

Emile DeVito, Marie Newell, Mark Barrick and Steve Jack is a versatile bunch.

“We need to be able to understand science and ecology, and identify species,” explained Bill Scullion, “but also know how to run and maintain tractors, chainsaws, and countless other tools.”

New Jersey Conservation’s 16 nature preserves across the state include blazed trails, parking areas and information kiosks. Over 50 miles of trails – many leading to scenic vistas, streams and lakes for fishing, and serene spots for nature observation – are found at the preserves.



Photo by Mike Pavarini



Photo by Bill Scullen



Photo by Tim Morris

Stewardship

(continued from page 5)

And with our land preservation staff preserving over two thousand acres each year, the challenges are multiplying!

Award-Winning Ecological Restoration

The Franklin Parker Preserve in Burlington County is the largest preserve at 9,700 acres. About 15 square miles, it's bigger than many New Jersey towns, including Newark, Livingston and Moorestown! And it's an all-season showcase for a broad range of stewardship projects.

When New Jersey Conservation Foundation bought the former cranberry and blueberry farm in 2003, its hydrology had been altered from decades of using water control structures to operate the cranberry farm.

Over the course of several years, we removed the water control structures, loosened compacted soil, re-sculpted the land's contours and planted native

vegetation. The largest freshwater wetlands restoration of its kind in the northeast, the project was recognized with a Governor's Environmental Achievement Award.

In the ensuing years, wildlife habitat for birds, fish, turtles and frogs rebounded. "There's a lot more open water now," said Russell Juelg. "As our plan is implemented, we're seeing more of the wildlife we wanted to see."

It's continually improving as a destination for visitors. Staff and volunteers have built about 28 miles of trails, and converted two abandoned pump houses into wildlife observation platforms. This summer's project is to add interpretive signs.

Native Species Comeback

At the opposite end of the state is the Apshawa Preserve in West Milford, which is co-owned with Passaic County. Here in the Highlands, we're working on a long-

term forest health project to find out if native trees and vegetation – under pressure from overabundant browsing deer – will come back if the deer are kept out.

In 2010, staff, contractors and volunteers built a wire-mesh fence around 300 acres of the 576-acre preserve. We then held a "Volun-Deer Hike" in which hikers walked in a long line to push deer out of the enclosure. Later, staff and student volunteers inventoried plants, laying the groundwork for a before-and-after comparison. Research slowed when large sections of fence were damaged by storms, but in a few years we should be able to compare native plant growth inside and outside the fence.

We've also improved habitat throughout the Apshawa Preserve. In the center of the preserve is the Butler Reservoir, a scenic lake formerly used as a drinking water supply. Several years ago, its water level was lowered with the construction of a new dam, leaving



“I’ve always felt at home in the woods. Now I get to be out there as my work day. At this job, I’m really just being myself – enjoying and protecting nature.”

– BILL SCULLION
LAND STEWARD

helps wildlife habitat rebound

several feet of exposed soil along the shoreline. Instead of giving invasive plants a chance to gain a foothold, corporate volunteers planted native iris and hibiscus plants. Other volunteers helped by removing invasive plants and building trails.

Wickecheoke Creek Volunteers

Volunteers play a crucial role in stewarding the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve in western Hunterdon County. This preserve is a patchwork of preserved parcels along the Wickecheoke Creek, a rocky stream that flows to the Delaware River – and a drinking water supply source.

In 2012, we launched an “Adopt a Preserve” program to engage neighbors and volunteers in stewarding land in the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve.

“Volunteers from the area were matched with preserved properties along the creek and asked to maintain the trails,

walk the property lines at least once a year, repost property boundary signs, clean up dumping and report issues that may arise,” explained Marie Newell, project coordinator. Currently, 16 volunteer stewards are enrolled.

These volunteers gather once or twice a year on larger projects like demolishing an old shed and managing larger properties. They’ve also taken on special projects, including building boardwalks over wet areas, putting up birdhouses and benches, monitoring deer fences, organizing teams of students to remove invasive plants, and providing help at hikes and special events.

Stopping Off-Road Vehicle Traffic

This summer, the stewardship team will embark on another critical project: stopping illegal off-road vehicle traffic on

preserved land. This will help plants and wildlife, and improve water quality in streams that flow into Barnegat Bay.

At the 4,000-acre Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River Mountain in the Pine Barrens, the team will work to eliminate trespassing by dirt bike and all-terrain vehicle riders. These vehicles tear up the ground, destroying plant communities and causing sedimentation and pollution of three branches of the Forked River.

“For the next two years, it will be a major emphasis,” said Tim Morris. “We’ll be physically blocking access and allowing disturbed areas to re-vegetate.”

Visit our preserves and see the hard work of our stewardship team and fabulous volunteers! Enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, paddling, bird-watching and much more.

For more information and trail maps, go to <http://www.njconservation.org/preserves.htm>



Photo by Fran Rapa

Keeping dreams alive in Salem County

At age seven, Lisa Perozzi already knew she wanted to own a horse farm when she grew up. Amazingly, she also knew exactly which one: a pretty farm in Pilesgrove that she spotted one day while riding in the car with her grandfather.

“We were driving past it and I told him I wanted that farm,” recalled Lisa, who has loved horses since she began taking riding lessons as a three-year-old.

Lisa’s childhood dream seemed to be coming true 20 years ago when she and

her mother, Linda Harker, bought the Salem County property and named it LongWait Farm. The farm was run down, but they had ambitious plans for transforming it into a top equestrian center where they could hold horse shows and start a handicapped riding program.

Those plans unraveled when Linda passed away in 2004. What followed was a decade of financial struggles, during which Lisa almost lost the farm.

But she got new hope for the future of LongWait Farm in February, when she sold the development rights on 71 acres to New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

The proceeds will allow her to repay debts and invest in repairs and improvements.

Lisa still owns the farm, but the 71 acres are now permanently restricted to agricultural use. Perozzi said she was pleased to preserve the farmland, as neither she nor her mother ever wanted to see the land they loved developed.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased the development rights using funds from the State Agriculture Development Committee and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. Many thanks to these great partners for making this project happen!

Putting together the preservation puzzle in Hamilton

Photo by Eileen Swan

Preserving land is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle: Add a piece here and another piece there within a project area, and over time a large “forever green” landscape takes shape. The great news from Hamilton Township, Mercer County, is that the pieces are coming together nicely in the township’s rural southeast corner.

Hamilton Township is a highly developed Trenton suburb and New Jersey’s ninth largest municipality in population, with 2,240 residents per square mile. Since last summer, we have helped Hamilton Township, the County of Mercer and the state permanently preserve three properties totaling 268 acres!

The most recent was the 58-acre Vaishnav property, which was purchased by the township in February. Appropriately, this parcel is shaped like a jigsaw puzzle piece ... and indeed it was the

“missing piece” connecting other preserved lands!

The land will be used as open space for passive recreation such as hiking, bird-watching, dog walking and nature photography.

The Vaishnav property includes significant woodlands and wetlands, and is next to the preserved 62-acre Black farm.

The Black farm was preserved last summer after being first proposed for housing development and later for a solar facility.

And last fall, we assisted the county in preserving the 148-acre Thompson farm, which was once threatened by high-density housing development. This bucolic property is located along a tributary of the Doctor’s Creek, and bordered on three sides by preserved farmland and open space.

We’re grateful to Hamilton Township, the County of Mercer and the State Agriculture Development Committee and the sellers for being such wonderful land preservation partners!

NJ CONSERVATION AWARDED \$700K FEDERAL FARMLAND GRANT

This past January brought excellent news for water and soil quality in the Delaware Bay watershed region in Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester counties: New Jersey Conservation Foundation was awarded \$700,000 in federal grant funds to preserve farms and protect water and soil.

The grant is part of an innovative national program. Selected land conservation organizations across America were chosen to receive similar grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s new “Regional Conservation Partnership Program.”

The grant to New Jersey Conservation Foundation – the only one awarded in New Jersey – will be used to preserve farms within a 752-square-mile agricultural region of the Delaware Bay Watershed and help participating landowners implement practices to protect soil and water quality.

“The Delaware Bay Watershed is the state’s largest agricultural production region, and it has abundant water supplies and richly diverse natural resources,” said Greg Romano, assistant director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation and head of its land preservation department. “We will use these grant funds to permanently preserve farms while improving water quality and supporting wildlife habitat.”

Photo by Ingrid Vandegaer

Preserving farms and forests in Warren County

Two Warren County properties were permanently preserved this past winter, helping to protect the area's forests and agricultural land base.

In late December, we purchased the 120-acre DeCasas property on the Scotts Mountain ridge, adding a key connector parcel in the middle of about 1,500 acres of already-preserved farms and natural areas. The property straddles Harmony and White townships, and includes 30 acres of agricultural fields and 90 acres of woodlands with existing trails.

The fields will be leased to a local farmer for continued agricultural production, and the forest will be kept in its natural state for wildlife habitat and recreation such as hiking and nature observation. The forest provides habitat for birds, including scarlet tanager, wood thrush, eastern wood-pewee and solitary vireo.

The DeCasas land adjoins other parcels of preserved farmland, and the forested area borders the state's Buckhorn Creek Wildlife Management Area. Adjacent are two wooded properties preserved earlier by New Jersey Conservation and its partners: the 36-acre Morrison property, acquired in 2012; and the 60-acre Hanssler/Bossert property, acquired in 2008, which connects to the Merrill Creek Reservoir environmental preserve.

In January, we assisted Warren County in acquiring the development rights on the 48-acre Cooke family farm, where corn and hay are grown, and sheep and beef cattle have been raised.

"Shale Hill Farm" straddles the

border of Hope and Frelinghuysen townships, just north of Interstate 80. Its uppermost fields are located on a ridge top with views of the Delaware Water Gap in the distance. It's located near other preserved farms and natural areas, including the Bear Creek Preserve and Jenny Jump State Forest.

Thank you to our funding partners in these two preservation projects: Warren County, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, the State Agriculture Development Committee, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the 1772 Foundation, and Harmony Township. Partnerships like these are critical in keeping the Garden State green!

2015

GAINING GROUND

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved more than 1,500 acres throughout the state from late fall 2014 through late April 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.

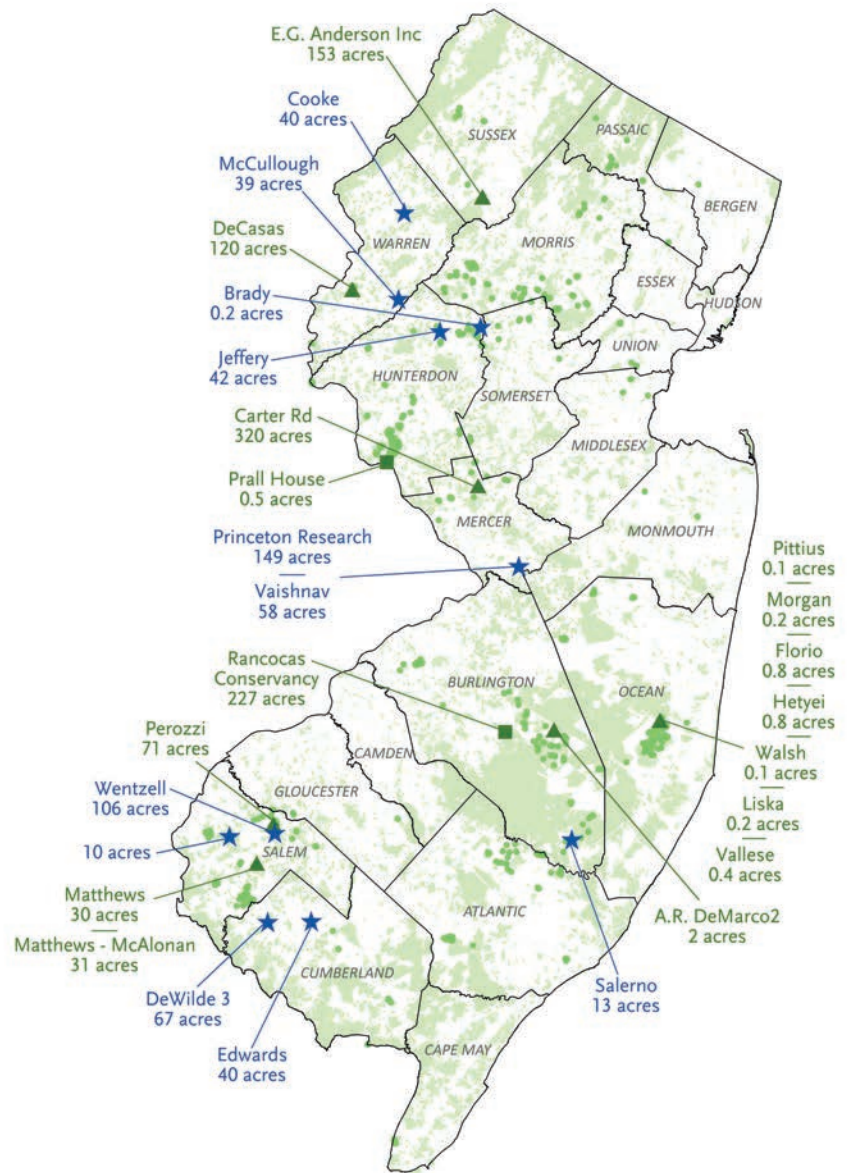
THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE THESE LANDS!

27 Projects between Oct 2014 - May 2015

- ▲ NJCF Owned (Fee or Easement): 730 acres
- ★ Preserved in Partnership: 564 acres
- NJCF Transfers (2): 227 acres

TOTAL Acreage Preserved: 1,521 acres

- NJCF Owned and Managed Properties (Fee or Easement)
- Preserved Land (Open Space & Farmland)

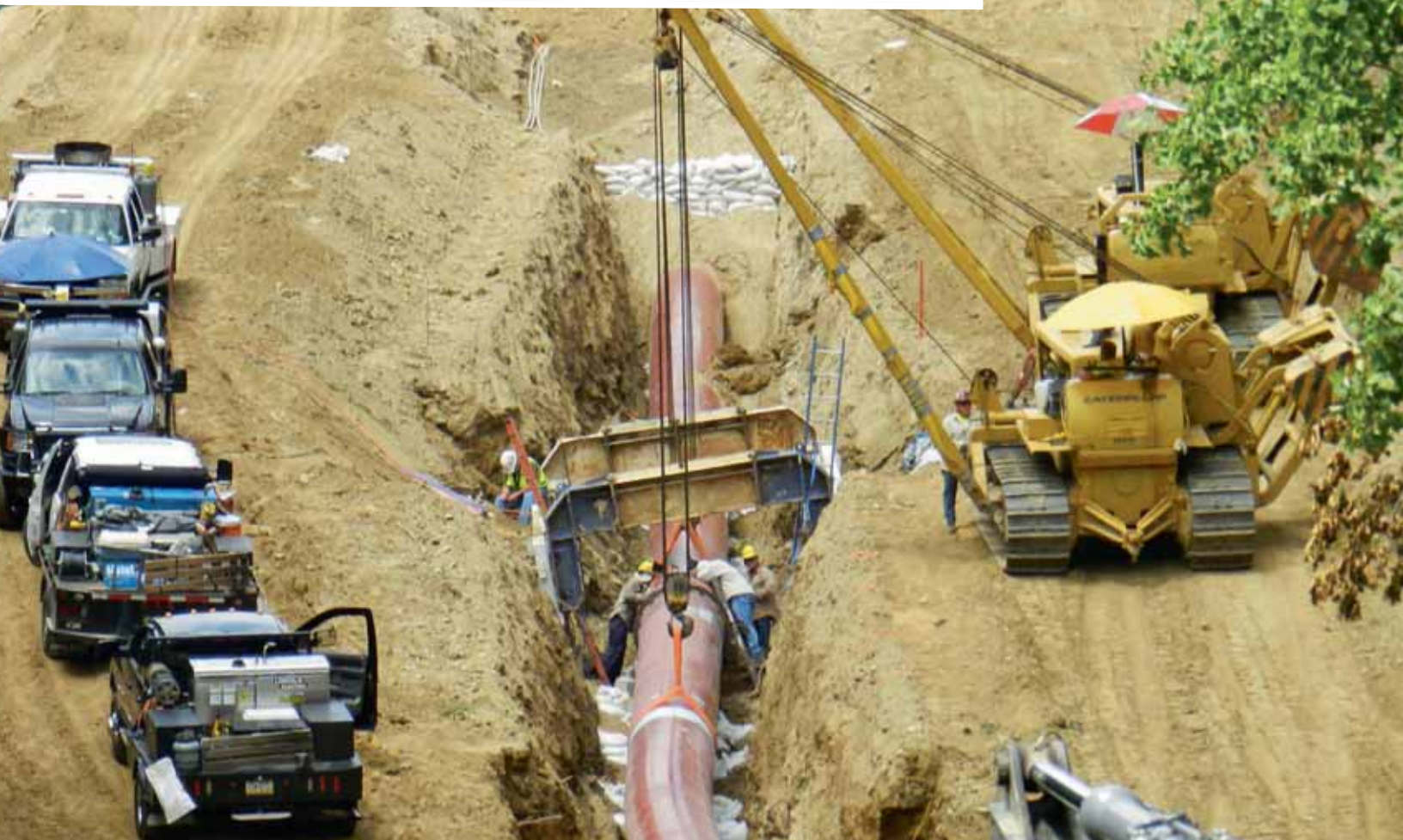


It's easy to join New Jersey Conservation Foundation online – visit the website at www.njconservation.org/donate.htm

Become a Member Today!



GARDEN STATE or PIPELINE STATE?



New Jersey is awash in proposals for new pipelines that would transport natural gas and oil to distribution and export points across the state. These pipelines are not good news for preserved open space and farmland.

The proposed PennEast pipeline, would carry natural gas from the Marcellus Shale “fracking” region of Pennsylvania to a location north of Trenton, crossing through Hunterdon and Mercer counties. The two potential routes under consideration could cross as many as 66 preserved parcels totaling nearly 4,500 acres.

Then there’s the proposed Diamond East pipeline, which would follow a parallel but yet to be determined route a few miles to the east.

The proposed Pilgrim Oil pipeline would carry Bakken shale oil produced in North Dakota from Albany, N.Y., to

Linden, traversing numerous preserved lands in Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Essex and Union counties. That line cuts through the New Jersey Highlands region, which supplies over 5 million New Jerseyans with their drinking water.

There’s the 28-mile New Jersey Natural Gas pipeline proposed for Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean counties. Preliminary plans call for the line to begin in Chesterfield and continue through North Hanover, Upper Freehold, Plumsted and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in the Pinelands Preservation Area before connecting to the utility’s system in Manchester.

Another threat is the South Jersey Gas pipeline proposed in the Pine Barrens in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties. The South Jersey Gas application was voted down by the Pinelands Commission in 2014, but the stage was set for a new application when a commissioner opposing the pipeline was recently replaced by Governor Christie and the state Senate. Time will tell whether the new appointee, Robert Barr, will shift the voting majority in favor of the pipeline.

Finally, the Williams Transcontinental Pipeline Company plans to install about 30 miles of pipeline to move natural gas from Pennsylvania to the mid-Atlantic and the Southeast. A little over six miles would be installed adjacent to an older line through Princeton and Montgomery Township, crossing the Princeton Ridge – a focus area for land preservation efforts.

Lack of Comprehensive Planning

With so many pipeline proposals out there – and likely more in the offing – it seems logical that a comprehensive review process is in order. It's critical to look at the big picture and consider the necessity and cumulative impacts of so many pipelines. But there is no such process or review in place.

When gas pipelines are proposed to cross state lines – as is the case with PennEast and Diamond East – they must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Otherwise, approvals fall to state regulators.

Unfortunately, each individual pipeline proposal is reviewed independently, in a vacuum, as if the others didn't exist. The combined effects on New Jersey are not addressed. And the proposals enjoy the full backing of current federal energy policy, which focuses on getting energy to markets quickly.

It is critical that all levels of government require comprehensive planning for energy infrastructure in a consistent, science-based, proactive manner that protects preserved and other high quality natural resource lands.

The preserved farms and natural areas that would be impacted by the proposed pipeline routes were saved for their soil quality, food production value, drinking water and wildlife habitat. The protections are supposed to be permanent ... as in forever.

Crossing preserved lands runs counter to voter support for permanent land preservation and erodes public trust in preservation programs.

Most preservation projects are funded with our tax dollars at the local, county, state and federal levels.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, provides substantial federal funding for farmland preservation through the Farm Bill and other programs. When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission allows these lands to become a target for energy infrastructure, federal land preservation policies and investments are undermined.

Please contact your U.S. Senators and Congressional representatives and ask them to change federal policy to require comprehensive planning for energy infrastructure – and to protect taxpayer investments by keeping pipelines off preserved land and our state's natural resources.

To learn more about the pipeline proposals, and find out how to contact New Jersey's Senators and Representatives, visit our website at www.njconservation.org/currentissues.htm.

Governors Florio and Whitman Become Honorary Trustees

In our polarized political world, it may seem improbable that two former Republican governors and two former Democratic governors would agree on anything.

But in the past few years, former Governors Brendan Byrne, Thomas Kean, James Florio and Christine Todd Whitman came together on several occasions to protect New Jersey's environment and natural lands.

We're pleased to have Governors Florio and Whitman become Honorary Trustees of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, joining longtime Honorary Trustees Byrne and Kean. They were elected at the March 18 board meeting.



Florio, a Democrat, served as governor from 1990 to 1994, following 15 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a congressman, he introduced legislation that ultimately led to the creation of the Pinelands National Reserve. As governor, he started the Highlands Trust Advisory Board, which laid the groundwork for passage of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, and signed into law the Clean Water Enforcement Act.

Whitman, a Republican, served as governor from 1994 to 2001, leaving to become administrator of the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency under President George W. Bush. As governor, she won voter approval for the state's first stable source of land preservation funding, an initiative that sought to preserve a million additional acres of open space and farmland.

Together, Florio, Whitman, Byrne and Kean have provided a powerful voice speaking up for New Jersey's preserved land.

In 2013, they teamed up to write a letter to the CEO of LG Electronics, asking for a low-rise alternative to the corporation's proposal for a 143-foot office headquarters in the Hudson River Palisades of Bergen County. As originally proposed, the building would have towered over the Palisades, a national historic and natural landmark.

Over the past year, the four governors joined forces twice to defend the Pine Barrens, most recently urging the state Senate not to appoint a new state Pinelands Commission member who may favor a proposed natural gas pipeline through the protected Pinelands region.

The governors also spoke out last fall in support of continued state funding to preserve open space, farmland, historic sites and flood-prone properties.



WALKS



TALKS



For a full list of programs and details, visit www.njconservation.org/events

Wednesday, May 20 8 – 10 a.m.

Birding by Ear

BAMBOO BROOK

As leaves cover the trees and forest under-story, it becomes harder to see birds – so we have to rely on our ears! As we walk, we will listen for the vocalizations of Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler and other birds. Free.

Saturday, June 6 10 – 11:30 a.m.

National Trails Day Hike

MAUREEN OGDEN PRESERVE

Explore the new trail at the Maureen Ogden Preserve in Long Valley, Morris County, on this guided hike. The trail traverses rocky Highlands forest, forested wetlands and meadows. Free.

Friday, June 12 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Butterfly Walk

BAMBOO BROOK

Join experts from the North American Butterfly Association as we walk the meadows of Bamboo Brook in search of late spring butterfly species. Free.

Friday, July 10 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wildflower Walk

BAMBOO BROOK

Stroll the meadows and forest trails of Bamboo Brook and enjoy the beauty

of New Jersey's native wildflowers.

Keep your eyes open for insect pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Free.

Sunday, July 12 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Blueberry Pickin'

FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE

Join us at this former blueberry farm in the Pine Barrens for some old-fashioned fun for the whole family. Bring your own basket and take home all you can pick! \$5 per adult.

Saturday, July 25 8 – 11 p.m.

Moth Night

FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE

Learn about New Jersey's mysterious and beautiful nighttime moths during this "Moth Week" event in the Pine Barrens. Naturalists will set up a lighted screen to attract a variety of visitors. Free.

Friday, August 7 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Butterflies in the Meadow

BAMBOO BROOK

Join experts from the North American Butterfly Association as we walk the meadows in search of mid-summer butterfly species. Nineteen species of butterfly were observed during our 2014 walk! Free.

Saturday, October 3 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Annual Great Swamp Hike

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Enjoy our annual naturalist-led walk through the Great Swamp, amid the backdrop of fall's changing colors and migrating birds. Free.

Wednesday, October 21 8 – 10 a.m.

Fall Migration Bird Walk

BAMBOO BROOK

Naturalist Bill Lynch will lead a search for late fall migrants. This is a great time of year to spot birds that have been blown off-course during their journey south. Free.

Wednesday, October 28 8 – 10 a.m.

Searching for Sparrows

BAMBOO BROOK

While most of the colorful warblers have headed south for the winter, new species of sparrows are just arriving. We will walk through meadows and forest edges, learning to distinguish similar species. Free.

Wednesday, November 4 8 – 10 a.m.

Late Autumn Bird Walk

BAMBOO BROOK

With winter approaching, all but the latest migrants have already passed through. But new species are arriving from the north



FUN ACTIVITIES



and will spend the coldest months here. We'll search for finches, woodpeckers, sparrows, and birds of prey. Free.

Sunday, November 8 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Donald and Beverley Jones Hike**

WICKECHEOKE CREEK PRESERVE

This is one of our most popular annual events, with hikes of varying lengths through preserved open space and farmland in western Hunterdon County, followed by refreshments at the historic Prallsville Mills. Free.

Saturday, November 14 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Wild for a Day**

FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE

Let your kids go wild for the outdoors! Our staff will teach fun outdoor survival skills, like how to build a shelter from sticks and leaves, track animals and read a map and compass.

STEP INTO NATURE CHALLENGE

THIS IS YOUR YEAR. HAVE AN ADVENTURE.

Hike that mountain, bike along that trail, identify the birds singing in your backyard.

Challenge yourself in 2015! You don't have to go it alone and you don't have to spend a dime to do it! Let New Jersey Conservation Foundation help you create and meet your outdoor challenge. We'll help you make it fun while you improve your health and experience nature.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- 1. Pick a challenge:** We support three structured categories – biking, hiking and species counting. Or you can design your own challenge incorporating kayaking, swimming ... whatever suits your tastes.
- 2. Set a goal:** Would you like to hike 100 miles this summer? Bicycle 500 miles? Spot 150 species? Don't be daunted, we can help!
- 3. Plan your activities:** There are many great outdoor opportunities and nature trails right here in New Jersey. We can provide resources suggesting places to visit and meet your goals. And you can start by joining some of our hikes and nature walks!
- 4. Report your progress:** Check in twice a month, and feel free to post on social media. If you like, we will list you on our progress board. And if the competitive spirit isn't your thing, we'll keep it anonymous.

GET STARTED TODAY!

Join our Step Into Nature Challenge and breathe the fresh air!

For more information and online registration, go to
www.njconservation.org/StepIntoNatureChallenge.htm

HEALTH CHECK: SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS ...

Lowens blood pressure • Reduces ADD symptoms • Alleviates stress and anxiety • Promotes healing (even hospital patients with a view of trees recover faster!) • Keeps you fit (children with better access to parks and open space are less likely to have significant increases in BMI over time)

REGISTER TODAY!

info@njconservation.org
908-234-1225

Minimal fee for some programs.



*thank
you!*

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges benefactors who made contributions between October 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. With your support, we will work hard to preserve and protect New Jersey's land.

New Members

Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2014

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Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2014

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Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2014

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Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2014

Edward Babbott Education Fund
Margaret Babbott

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Photos by Cassidy Marturana and Stephanie Monahan

Rx To your health!

The role of land conservation in promoting health and wellness

19TH ANNUAL NJ Land Conservation Conference

More than 350 land preservation professionals and volunteers gathered in Trenton on March 6 for the 19th annual NJ Land Conservation Conference. This year's theme was "To Your Health," and two dozen educational workshops explored the role of land conservation in promoting wellness. Dr. Eric Chivian, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, gave the keynote speech on the human health impacts of climate change, and Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth spoke about the connections between nature and health. Among the exhibitors were farmers who showcased samples of their products and an artist who facilitated a group painting inspired by the natural environment. Miss Earth NJ Nicole Glass talked about the need to draw youth into the land preservation movement, and Martin Farawell, director of the Dodge Poetry Program, read two of his nature-inspired poems.

Lunchtime "Rally" gathering



Welcome New Trustees

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes Frances Raymond Price of Princeton and Stephen W. Parker of Bernardsville to the Board of Trustees.



Fran Price

A graduate of Cornell University and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Fran has spent more than two decades in forestry-related positions. She currently

serves as Director of Forest Certification Programs for The Nature Conservancy, where she promotes Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification as a conservation tool and coordinates the Conservancy's use of FSC certification in key geographic areas around the world.

Previously, Fran served in forestry-related positions with the Isaak Walton League of America, the National Wildlife Federation and the United States Peace Corps. She is the president of a small family foundation focused on supporting conservation activities, and is part-owner and manager of family forestlands in New York State.

Along with his sister Liz, Steve is co-owner and co-publisher of the New Jersey Hills Media Group, consisting of 17 multi-media news outlets serving 55 communities in four northern New Jersey counties. The business was founded in 1897 and has been under his family's ownership since 1957.

Steve holds a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University and an M.B.A. degree from Columbia University, and worked for eight years as a Wall Street analyst before joining the family publishing business. He has been active with state and national media organizations, serves on the boards of the New Jersey Historical Society and Somerset Hills YMCA, and is a past chair and longtime board member of the Bonnie Brae School.



Stephen W. Parker

Meet Meg Barnes, Babbott Fund intern

Meg Barnes of Edison, our second Babbott Fund intern, worked out of our main office last fall to raise awareness of preserved land and the ballot question on open space funding.

Meg majored in government and environmental studies at Franklin & Marshall College.

She tells about her experiences:

"Working at New Jersey Conservation Foundation was one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. From traveling around the state and sharing stories of local conservation efforts, to encouraging residents to pass open space funding on the November ballot, I have seen the tangible results of dedication to land conservation.

The Foundation's work is exponentially important to maintaining the state's multitude of ecosystems and natural resources, now and for future New Jersey residents. I have witnessed the appreciation of New Jerseyans thankful for having a preserved area to hike or walk their dogs; of people grateful that the open land around them won't be built upon or developed.

I know that often people take for granted the clean air we breathe, the forests we hike, and the lakes and rivers we swim or fish in, but I can't imagine life without these amenities and know that if not for the tremendous work of New Jersey Conservation and other organizations, we wouldn't have them."

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



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By including New Jersey Conservation Foundation in your estate plans, you can ensure that all of the wonderful places that you have helped preserve will be well cared for by a robust Conservation Foundation for decades to come.

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To discuss how your planned gift will help ensure preservation in New Jersey for years to come, contact Kathleen Ward, Development Director, at 908-997-0723 or kathleen@njconservation.org.

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