

New Jersey Conservation

SAVING A *Legacy*

Photo courtesy of U.S. Trotting Association

30 years ago, champion harness racehorses grazed the fields of Lana Lobell Farm in Bedminster, as shown in this 1986 photo. The racing stable no longer exists, but the rolling, riverside farmland has just been permanently preserved.

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Preserving Rural Character

Land near Sergeantsville's iconic covered bridge is preserved by local family.

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Step Into Nature!

Get outdoors in 2016 and join us for walks, talks and educational programs.

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Partnering for Success

Small grants help build trails, improve wildlife habitat and more.



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From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

Let's Get Preservation Funds Flowing Again!

In many ways, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the state's land preservation programs have grown up together.

In 1960, NJ Conservation – then a grassroots group known as the “Great Swamp Committee” – was founded to fight plans for an international “jetport” in the Great Swamp.

A year later, in 1961, New Jersey voters approved the first of more than a dozen Green Acres ballot questions to preserve parks, open space and farmland in the Garden State.

Over the years, thanks to voter-approved funding, New Jersey became a national leader in land preservation, saving over 795,000 acres of open space and 220,000 acres of farmland. New Jersey Conservation Foundation grew to become one of the state's most prolific land preservation nonprofits, succeeding in protecting over 125,000 acres.

But the pace of preservation has recently slowed due to inaction by the state.

In November 2014, voters acted decisively to support permanent state funding. By a 65 percent margin, voters endorsed a ballot question permanently dedicating a portion of the state's corporate business tax revenues to open space, farmland and historic preservation.

It was a victory... but one not yet realized. Funds have been accumulating in state coffers, but they can't be spent because implementing legislation has not been signed into law.

In January, Governor Christie vetoed legislation that would have made this funding available. Undeterred, the Legislature quickly introduced new bills. We're hoping they will pass early this year so the funding can flow as voters intended.

Fortunately, NJ Conservation and partners have been able to continue preserving land while waiting for the new state funding. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's farmland preservation program helped fill the gap, as have county open space programs, private donations and leftover state funds. New Jersey Conservation Foundation had a very successful year in 2015, with more than 2,500 acres preserved.

But state funds are critical. Permanent preservation is still the best method we have to protect our lands, drinking water and wildlife habitat.

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





Photo by Ralph Tesaurio

Welcome to Spring!

The warm weather months are coming, and with them the greening of New Jersey's forests and meadows, and re-emergence of butterflies. Above, trees form a leafy archway over the Plum Brook on the recently-preserved 44-acre Kangas property in Raritan Township, Hunterdon County. At right, a Little Wood Satyr butterfly alights on a leaf.



Photo by Bill Lynch



Landmark Farm Along River Saved in Somerset County



Lana Lobell Farm in Bedminster Township is a local landmark, with 172 acres of rolling fields and pastures, a mile of frontage along the Lamington River, high-quality soils, and a storied past as a breeder of champion harness racehorses.

Lana Lobell Farm's future was uncertain after the town approved the land for a subdivision of nine estate homes.

Thanks to a public-private partnership coordinated by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the farm's future is secure. Somerset County purchased the development rights for \$5.87 million in January, ensuring that Lana Lobell will remain farmland forever.

The partnership was spearheaded by New Jersey Conservation Foundation on behalf of Bedminster Township, and included Somerset County, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation

Service and the State Agriculture Development Committee.

"This farm has it all. It's got great soils, it's a scenic landmark at the gateway to our community and it protects the Lamington River," said Bedminster Mayor Steve Parker. "We're very pleased to see it preserved, because once farmland is gone, it's gone for good."

"This beautiful farm has been a top preservation priority for decades," added Michele S. Byers, executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "We are immensely grateful for all of the partners who worked together so hard to complete this project and secure the

scenic beauty of this region."

The Lana Lobell property is surrounded by nearly 4,000 acres of preserved land in Bedminster, Branchburg and Readington townships. These lands protect the Lamington River, a top trout production stream with exceptionally clean waters. It flows into the North Branch of the Raritan River, a vital part of central New Jersey's drinking water supply.

Lana Lobell will remain in private ownership, but the agreements put in place – known as easements – will ensure it is permanently restricted to agricultural uses. The property is currently operated as a riding stable and for growing hay.

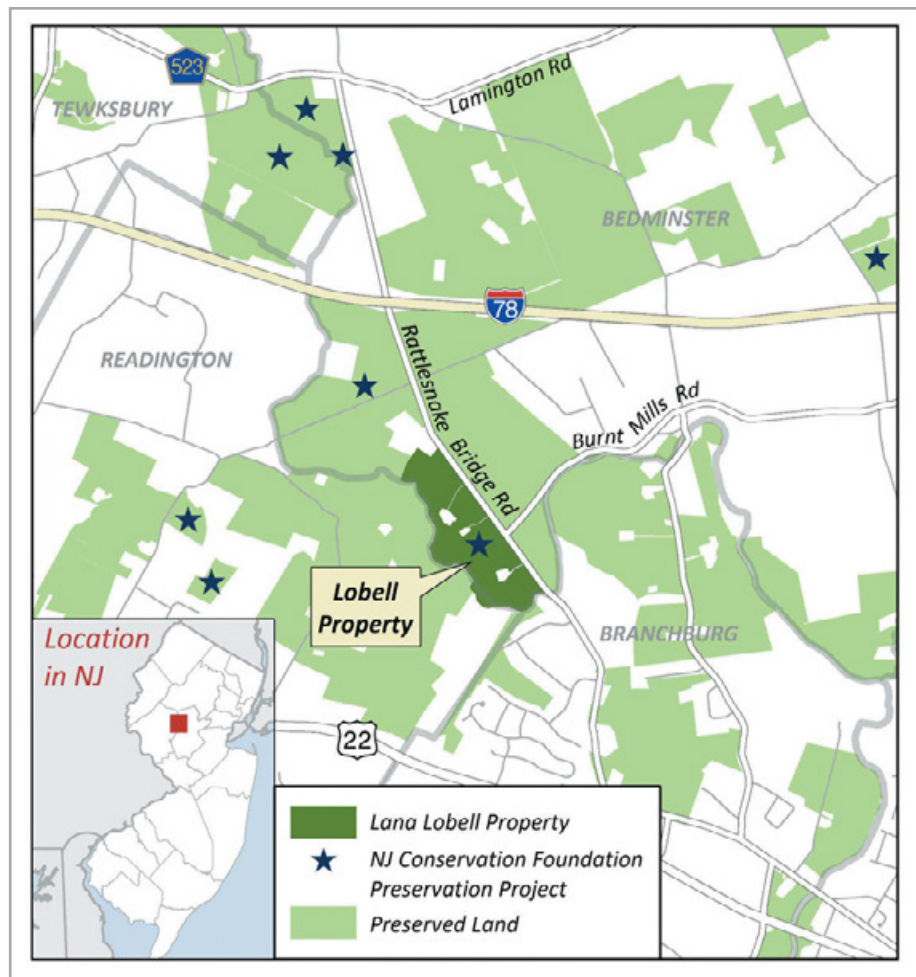
Farmland for Centuries

Historic records indicate that the land was used for farming as far back as the American Revolution. In the 1930s, it was part of the 660-acre “Field Farm” assembled by Kenneth B. Schley, who raised cattle there.

In the 1970s, the land was sold to horse breeder Alan Leavitt, who renamed it Lana Lobell Farm. In its heyday during the next two decades, Lana Lobell was one of the nation’s top producers of Standardbred racehorses. Its annual yearling sale attracted high-profile buyers from around the world, and horses bred there included four winners of the Hambletonian, harness racing’s equivalent of the Kentucky Derby.

But the prestigious horse operation came to an end in 1997, when the owner filed for bankruptcy. It appeared that Lana Lobell’s days as a farm might be numbered as the property changed hands twice, with one owner proposing a golf club and the next obtaining township subdivision approval in 2007.

Thanks to our partners for making the preservation of this farm possible!



Partnering to Save 100+ Acres in the Sourland Mountains

The Sourland Mountain region of central New Jersey is an expansive green swath of forest and farmland spanning parts of three largely developed counties.

More than 100 acres in the Sourlands were preserved last fall through a partnership between New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Somerset County Board of Freeholders.

Somerset County purchased 74 acres in Hillsborough Township from landowner John Higgins, followed by 29 acres in neighboring Montgomery

Township from owner Bryce Thompson.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation initiated both projects by securing option agreements through our longstanding relationships with the landowners. The options were transferred to the county, which completed the purchases.

The Montgomery property expands the Sourland Mountain Preserve, which now exceeds 6,000 acres and is the largest park in Somerset County’s 14,000-acre system. The Hillsborough property will become part of a new preserve, and we will work with the county on a management plan.

Saving these lands is a priority project in our *Campaign for Conservation* (see

page 9). We are currently working with Somerset County to preserve an additional 4.5 acres, and with Hunterdon County and East Amwell Township to preserve an additional 420 contiguous acres.

The Sourlands contain over 20,000 contiguous forested acres, which protect the headwaters of water supply streams flowing to the Delaware & Raritan Canal, Millstone, Raritan and Delaware rivers. The region supports many rare plant and animal species and provides nesting and stopover habitat for over 100 migratory bird species.

Both the D&R Greenway Land Trust and the Sourlands Conservancy are also working to preserve this critical region.



Land Preserved Near Historic Covered Bridge



Rosa Johnson and her son, Alan, on preserved land near the covered bridge.

The rolling countryside surrounding the hamlet of Sergeantsville and its iconic covered bridge is one of the most picturesque spots in New Jersey, thanks in part to the Johnson family's passion for land preservation.

"We just try to be good citizens as best we can," said Rosa Johnson, whose late husband's family has been farming in western Hunterdon County for more than 200 years.

Over the past 15 years, the Johnsons have sold and donated 40 acres of open space to New Jersey Conservation Foundation, including land next to the historic Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge,

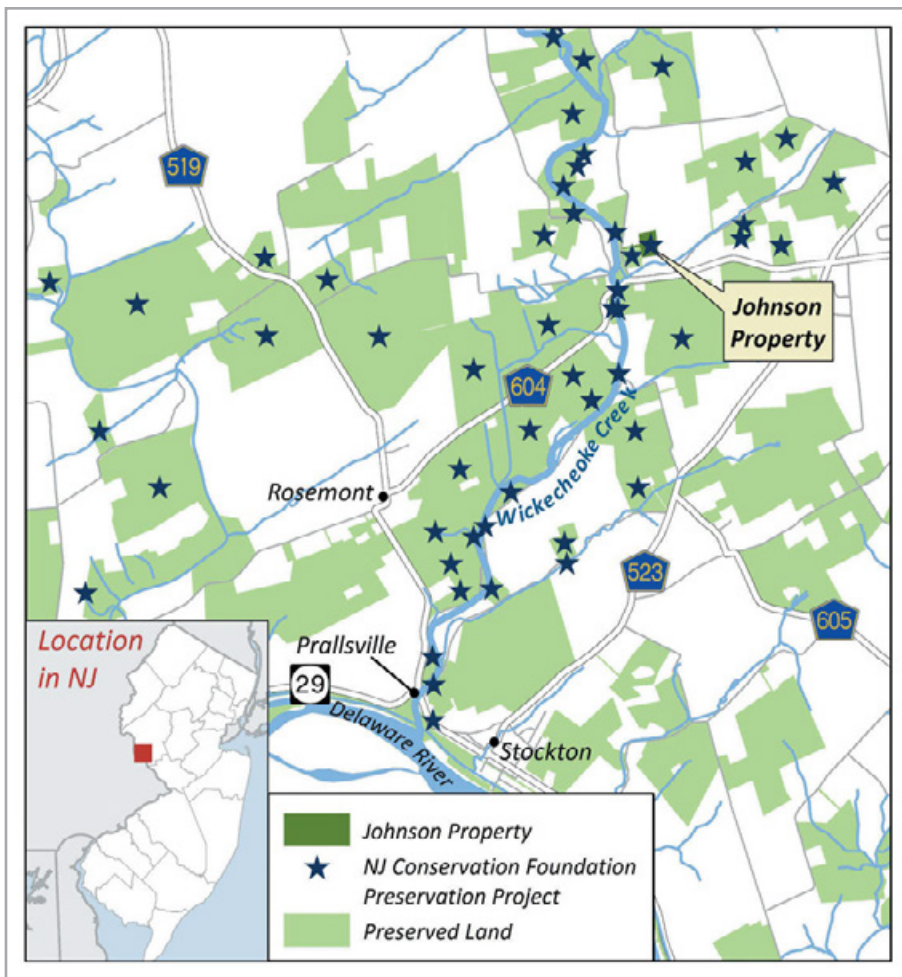
the last original covered bridge in the state. They preserved another 42 acres of farmland through the state.

The latest to be preserved is an 8.7-acre parcel, which Rosa Johnson sold in January, ensuring that it will remain open forever.

The land consists of fields that were once part of a dairy farm and are currently used for growing hay. The

property connects to the covered bridge via the previously preserved lands, and will become part of a local trail network.

Rosa Johnson said she and her husband, Larry, always wanted to see their land preserved to protect the beauty and rural character of the Sergeantsville area. "My husband said he didn't want to see houses growing up like mushrooms," she recalled.



Raritan Township Lands Boost Water Protection

Two forested properties in Raritan Township, Hunterdon County, were permanently preserved last year by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners.

The two properties total nearly 70 acres and protect water quality in the Wickechoke Creek and its tributaries. The pristine Wickechoke Creek flows into the Delaware & Raritan Canal, a drinking water source for central New Jersey.

The 44-acre Kangas property, with the Plum Brook running through it, adjoins existing township-preserved land and will be used for passive recreation such as hiking, picnicking and nature study.

The 25.6-acre Davino property is surrounded by preserved open space and farmland, and will be used to extend an existing trail system.

Partners in both preservation projects included Raritan Township, Hunterdon County, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, with the D&R Greenway Land Trust partnering in the Kangas property preservation. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority assisted with costs on both projects.

Nine generations on farm

Ancestors of the Johnson family have been living in Sergeantsville since the early 1800s and include Charles Sergeant, a Revolutionary War soldier for whom the village is named. Charles' son, Green Sergeant, built the covered bridge in 1872. Green's daughter married George Johnson, which is how the homestead passed into the Johnson family.

Larry Johnson was part of the sixth generation of family members to grow up on the farm, and Rosa arrived as a bride 65 years ago. Larry and Rosa's four children were the seventh generation, and three of the four still live on the property. There's now an eighth and ninth generation, although not all have stayed in the area.

The newly-preserved property connects to two acres directly adjacent to the covered bridge, which Rosa Johnson donated in 2006. "It's a strip along the water," she explained. "I love to see it during trout season when the fishermen are out."

The preserved land is near thousands of additional acres of preserved open space and farmland protecting the Wickechoke Creek, a pristine water supply source.

"We're extremely grateful to the Johnsons for their commitment to preserving land along the Wickechoke Creek and near the covered bridge," said Michele S. Byers, executive director. "This is one of New Jersey's most beautiful places, and it's because the Johnsons and other local families care enough to preserve land for future generations."

We acquired the land using funding from Hunterdon County and the state Green Acres Program. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority contributed funds to help pay for surveys, appraisals and related expenses.

The Wickechoke Creek flows into the Delaware & Raritan Canal, a source of drinking for more than 1.2 million New Jersey residents. Over the past 30 years, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has helped preserve nearly 4,000 acres surrounding the Wickechoke Creek and its tributaries.



Mountain Ridge, Forest Stream and Historic Canal!

The Mount Rascal Preserve in Hackettstown now includes the wooded mountain summit for which it is named, along with a headwaters stream and half-mile section of the historic Morris Canal.

Photo by Bill Rawlyk

In November, 113 acres in Hackettstown and Independence Township were preserved by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners, including the state Green Acres Program, Warren County, William Penn Foundation and Open Space Institute.

The newly-preserved property brings the Mount Rascal Preserve to more than 400 acres, expanding hiking opportunities, protecting drinking water and preserving a piece of history. It includes part of the watershed of the Bowers Brook, a Musconetcong River tributary.

The preserve is located a short distance from Routes 46 and 517 and is open to the public for hiking and other

passive recreation. It is managed by the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust.

‘Keystone Parcel’

“This acquisition adds the keystone parcel, including the summit of Mt. Rascal, to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust’s Mt. Rascal Preserve,” said Richard Boornazian, the state Department of Environmental Protection’s assistant commissioner for natural and historic resources. “Preserving unbroken forests such as this is critical for protecting water quality and wildlife habitat in the environmentally-sensitive Highlands region of New Jersey.”

Preserving land along the Morris Canal is one of Warren County’s top priorities.

“This is a wonderful open space project because it not only preserves important forest and headwaters, but it also provides a beautiful place for residents to recreate. In addition, it protects a large segment of the Morris Canal where visitors can learn more about our treasured local history,” said Corey Tierney, Warren County Preservation Director.

Before railroads, Tierney noted, the Morris Canal helped spur commerce in rural areas like Hackettstown. Stretching about 100 miles from Phillipsburg to Jersey City, the canal was considered an engineering marvel because it climbed

over 900 feet in elevation using sophisticated locks and inclined planes. Businesses sprang up along the canal, including a brewery near Hackettstown in the 1860s.

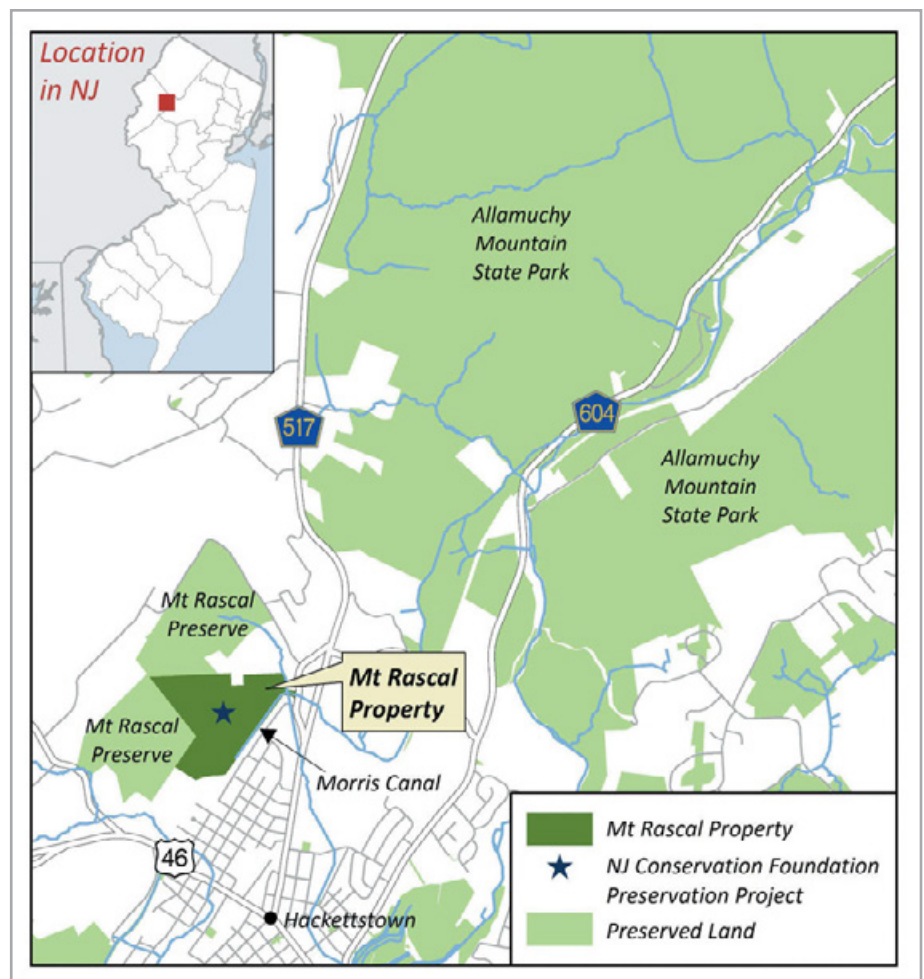
"Mules pulled long boats packed full of goods through the water and, given that the trip took about five days, you can easily imagine the boatmen floating along while enjoying the beer they just bought in town. So in addition to the natural beauty of the Mount Rascal Preserve, there's really a lot of history here that we hope to share with visitors," added Tierney.

The Mount Rascal Preserve also includes the remains of farming homesteads built in the 1800s by early German settlers to the area.

Protecting Forests and Clean Water

The Mount Rascal Project was supported through the Open Space Institute's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, which is made possible with funding from the William Penn Foundation.

"Forests play a critical role in filtering drinking water, in turn helping to build healthier communities," said Peter Howell, OSI's Executive Vice President of Capital & Research Programs. "The Mount Rascal project shows the value of innovative partnerships and collaborations in protecting water quality for the region's 15 million residents."



CAMPAIGN *For* CONSERVATION

NEARING THE \$30 MILLION GOAL

Great news for land preservation! A campaign to raise \$30 million to preserve thousands of acres across New Jersey is getting close to its goal, with about \$29 million pledged or received as of early February.

The Campaign for Conservation: Your Land, Your Water, Your Food, Your Future was publicly launched last fall and reflects a vision of connected greenways throughout New Jersey, according to Kenneth H. Klipstein II, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's president.

"Imagine a New Jersey where every resident can walk out his or her door and access an interconnected system of parks,

trails and protected natural areas, farmland, and historic places," Klipstein said. "That's the vision we are working toward."

The public phase of the Campaign was kicked off at a reception in Princeton in November.

Former Governor James Florio was among the special guests who gathered at Morven, the historic former governor's mansion. He voiced his support for protecting New Jersey lands, noting that residents have always been strongly in favor of open space preservation.

About \$27 million in public and private funds were raised in the campaign's "quiet" phase and another \$2 million have been added since the November launch, leaving \$1 million to be raised this year.

The Campaign's goal is to preserve

thousands of acres in seven areas of New Jersey: the Highlands, the Pine Barrens, the Hopewell Valley in Mercer County, the Sourland Mountains of central New Jersey, the Wickecheoke Creek region of Hunterdon County, the Delaware Bay watershed in southern New Jersey, and parks and greenways in the city of Camden.

To date, the *Campaign for Conservation* has preserved nine signature properties totaling nearly 1,800 acres.

Please join this exciting initiative and leave an open space legacy for future generations. To donate, please contact Kathleen Ward at Kathleen@njconservation.org or 908-997-0723.



Preserving a Haven for Birds and Wildlife

Ten wooded acres in Princeton – home to a diversity of songbirds and native plants – have been donated to New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Barbara and Michael Blumenthal donated the 10-acre Princeton property in November to ensure that it stays in its natural state forever.

"It's nice that this property is in the hands of New Jersey Conservation Foundation so it will be protected and nobody will ever build a house there," said Barbara Blumenthal.

Michele S. Byers, executive director, thanked the Blumenthals for their generosity. "This property contains beautiful wildlife habitat, and we really appreciate the Blumenthals' action to ensure it is preserved and protected," she said.

Lisa MacCollum, assistant director

of land acquisition for New Jersey Conservation Foundation, toured the property last spring and was impressed by its diversity of wildlife and plants.

Among the 15 migratory bird species she observed were black-throated blue warbler, black-throated green warbler, black and white warbler, northern parula, ovenbird, wood thrush, scarlet tanager and red-eyed vireo. She also noted a red fox, and native plants including showy orchis, spicebush, jack-in-the pulpit, trout lily, wood geranium, Christmas fern, and sensitive fern.

"Many of the birds we saw are neotropical migrants that have come from South America to nest here in our

temperate forests," MacCollum said. "While some of these birds may nest here, many will use it as a stopover and will continue farther north to breed. They depend upon forested areas such as this to feed on insects to fuel their journeys."

The Blumenthal donation adds to a growing list of preserved lands in the environmentally-sensitive Princeton Ridge area. Nearby properties preserved by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners include the 4.3-acre Klepper property, preserved in 2013; and the 14-acre Ricciardi property, preserved in 2011. The All Saints property was preserved by the D&R Greenway Land Trust in 2011.

2016

GAINING GROUND

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved more than 1,550 acres from July 2015 through early March 2016. These include family farms that produce local foods, and natural areas that safeguard clean drinking water, provide outstanding wildlife habitat and offer scenic beauty and outdoor recreation.

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

19 Projects

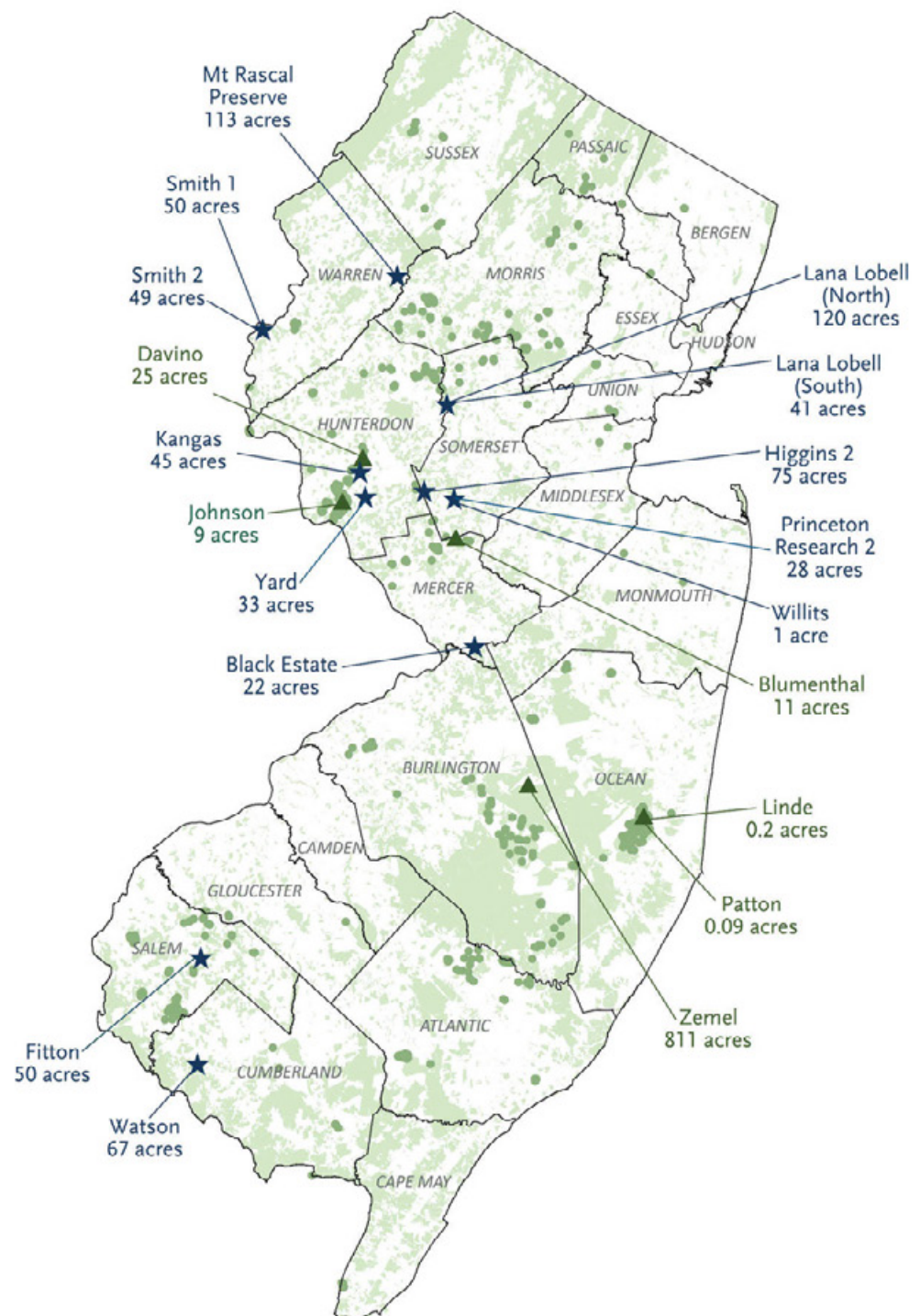
July 2015 - March 3, 2016

▲ NJ Conservation Foundation Owned: 847.29 acres
(Fee or Easement)

★ Preserved in Partnership: 703.00 acres

TOTAL: 1,550.29 acres

- NJ Conservation Foundation Owned & Managed Properties (Fee or Easement)
- Preserved Land (Open Space & Farmland)



RETHINKING ENERGY

Photo by Jack Sapich

“We want to be part of the solution”

Q&A WITH TOM GILBERT



New Jersey has struggled for years to establish sound planning for roads, housing, commercial and other development. But there is no planning mechanism for new energy infrastructure such as interstate pipelines.

Tom Gilbert, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's campaign director for energy, climate and natural resources, is concerned about the impacts of proposed energy infrastructure in our state. Here are some of his thoughts.

Q. Why are new energy infrastructure proposals threatening preserved land?

A. New Jersey is facing an onslaught of proposed interstate pipelines in recent years because energy companies want to ship natural gas and oil to other regions and markets. Preserved lands and protected natural areas are often in the chosen routes since they can be easier and less expensive to develop. Pipelines and other infrastructure such as electric transmission corridors are new types of sprawl development that pose

significant threats to New Jersey's land, water and communities.

Q. Will this development affect the entire state?

A. Energy infrastructure projects have been proposed throughout the state from the Highlands to the Pinelands, from central Jersey to the coast. Many threaten to damage important natural resources.

For instance, the proposed South Jersey Gas and Southern Reliability Link pipelines threaten the Pinelands National

LEFT: Scenic view from the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain in Hopewell Township, Mercer County. The preserve is in the proposed route of the PennEast pipeline.

Reserve and the very integrity of the Pinelands Protection Act. The proposed Pilgrim Oil Pipeline threatens the Highlands, which is the source of drinking water for more than half of the state's population.

Q. What kind of impact will these pipelines have on the land?

A. In Hunterdon and Mercer counties alone, over 4,300 acres of preserved open space and farmland are under threat from the proposed PennEast pipeline. We've worked with federal, state and local partners for decades to protect these lands, but PennEast could condemn the land if granted approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

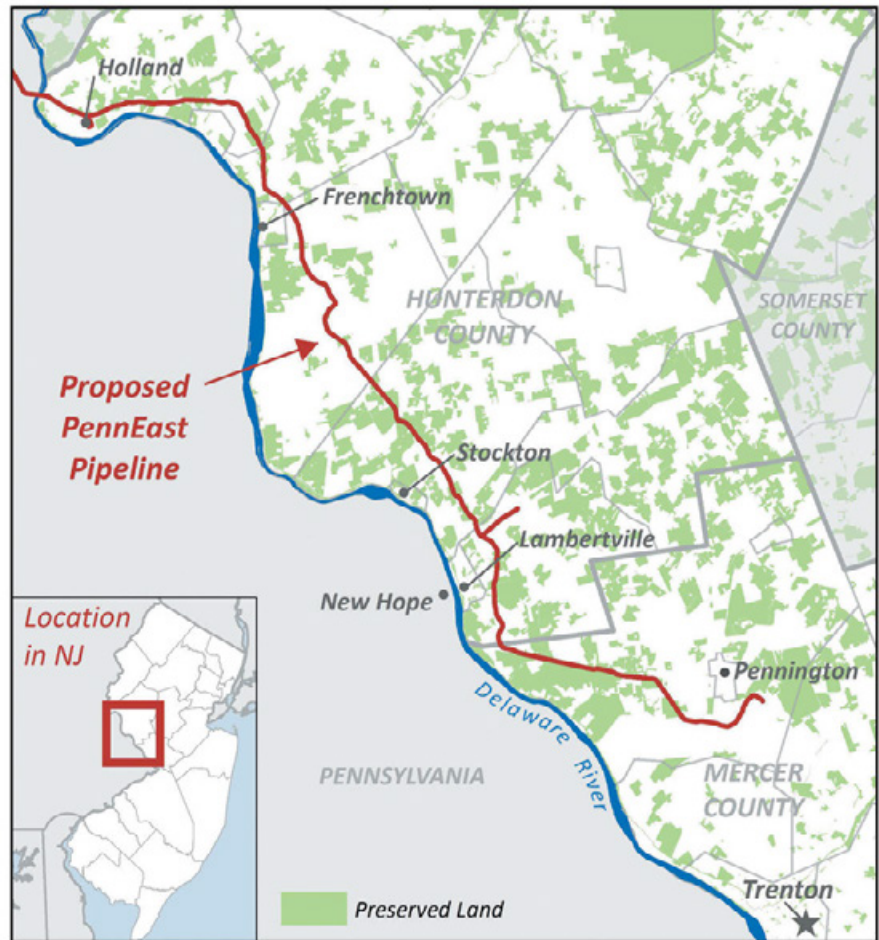
These lands were preserved with taxpayer dollars and intended to be set aside in their natural state in perpetuity, but in fact they're unprotected from massive pipeline projects. Should the proposed PennEast pipeline be built, it would scar the landscape and harm sensitive wildlife habitat and water quality. Since New Jersey Conservation Foundation has led efforts to preserve much of these lands, communities are looking to us for help.

Q. Is there an alternative to meet our energy needs?

A. We understand that most of New Jersey's energy comes from traditional fuels right now. But we also recognize the need for a rapid transition to clean, locally-produced, sensibly-located renewable sources of energy.

Rather than building unneeded pipelines that would further our use of yesterday's fuels like oil and gas, New Jersey can instead be a leader in developing clean sources of energy, like wind and solar, that will create more jobs and ensure that we have safe, healthy communities for our families.

That's why we partnered with Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association to launch Rethink Energy NJ, a new campaign to inform the public and decision-makers on how to be part of the energy solution.



The proposed PennEast pipeline would extend 118 miles from Luzerne County, Pa., to Mercer County, N.J., crossing the Delaware River and numerous streams, wetlands and preserved properties in Hunterdon and Mercer counties.

YOU CAN HELP!

ReThink Energy NJ is a campaign led by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and



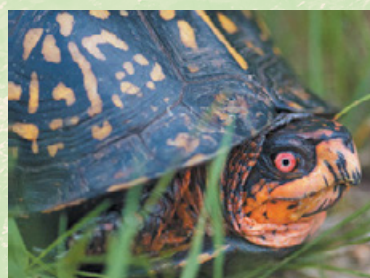
Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association to inform the public and decision-makers on need for a rapid transition to clean, renewable and efficient energy to protect our land, water and communities. To learn more about how you can help, go to www.rethinkenergynj.org



join us!



talks!



walks!



Thursday, April 21 7–9 p.m.

Moonlight Owl Calling

BAMBOO BROOK

Early spring is a great time to listen for breeding owls, as courtship and nesting have already begun. Dr. Emile DeVito, staff biologist, will lead this moonlight walk along woodland edges at Bamboo Brook, a Morris County park. Free.

Wednesday, April 27 8–10 a.m.

Spring Migration Bird Walk 1

BAMBOO BROOK

Naturalist Bill Lynch will lead a walk through the meadows and forest edges of Bamboo Brook as we search for both spring migrants and breeding birds. Songbirds love the transition between forest and field, and use the treetops to sing their hearts out to potential mates. Free.

Wednesday, May 4 8–10 a.m.

Spring Migration Bird Walk 2

BAMBOO BROOK

Spring migration continues as we venture into the forest to search for migrants and breeding birds. We hope to see scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds, woodpeckers, and other species that prefer the taller trees and denser vegetation of mature woodland. Free.

Wednesday, May 11 8–10 a.m.

Birding by Ear

BAMBOO BROOK

As more leaves cover the trees and understory of the forest, it becomes increasingly difficult to see birds. We will stop and listen for the vocalizations of wood thrush, hooded warbler, and other birds of Bamboo Brook. Free.

Saturday, June 4 10–11:30 a.m.

National Trails Day Hike

LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

National Trails Day is dedicated to getting people outdoors and exploring trails in parks and preserves. Join us on a walk through a scenic preserve. Free.

Friday, June 17 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Butterflies in the Meadow 1

BAMBOO BROOK

Join experts from the North American Butterfly Association as we walk the meadows of Bamboo Brook in search of early summer butterflies. Free.

Saturday, July 16 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Blueberry Picking

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.

Friday, July 22 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Butterflies in the Meadow 2

BAMBOO BROOK

Stroll the meadows of Bamboo Brook with experts from the North American Butterfly Association and admire the beauty of New Jersey's butterflies in mid-summer. Free.

Saturday, July 23 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 winged visitors. Free.

Friday, August 19 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Butterflies in the Meadow 3

BAMBOO BROOK

Experts from the North American Butterfly Association will once again lead a walk through the meadows of the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center in search of mid-summer butterfly species. Free.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 8–10 a.m.

Wayward Warblers

BAMBOO BROOK

Songbirds are on their way south for the winter and September is a wonderful time to see the most colorful warblers as they pass through New Jersey. American redstarts, black-throated green warblers, and magnolia warblers are just a few of the species we might observe. Free.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 8–10 a.m.

Fall Migration Bird Walk

BAMBOO BROOK

Naturalist Bill Lynch will lead a search for fall migrants. October offers an incredible diversity of migrating birds including warblers, sparrows, and birds of prey. Free.



register today!

email blynch@njcof.org



fun activities!



Wednesday, Oct. 19 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.

Sunday, Nov. 13 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, Nov. 19 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 basics, like building a shelter from sticks and leaves, tracking animals and reading a map and compass. Free.

Dates and times are subject to change, and there may be additional events added throughout the year.

For a full list of programs and details, please check our website at www.njconservation.org/events.

On the Circuit:

Olivia Glenn Named to Trails Group



Olivia Glenn, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's South Jersey metro regional manager, has assumed a major role in an effort to build a regional trail network in the greater Philadelphia-Camden area.

Last fall, Olivia was named New Jersey vice chair of the Circuit Trails Coalition, whose goal is to connect 750 miles of trails. The Circuit's vision is to make the region stronger by connecting communities to green space, making neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work, and providing places for healthy transportation and recreation.

"Getting on the Circuit is good on both a personal and a community level," she says. "On a personal level, it can improve our health outcomes and make us happier, as studies have shown. On a community level, there are environmental, economic and social benefits."

"We've seen the benefits of trails on property values and how retail establishments located along trails draw business from trail users," Olivia added. "Beyond recreational and economic benefits for a community, trails can be very utilitarian for transportation and commuting."

Chris Jage, assistant director for South Jersey, noted that The Circuit taps into the millennial generation's desire to live in places where they can walk and bike to work.

"Statistics are showing that younger generations are looking to move back into cities and are also buying fewer cars, so completing the Circuit trails is filling a major transportation need for the next generation as well as today," said Chris.

A lifelong lover of nature, Olivia grew up in Camden and now lives in Pennsauken. Her dedication to protecting the environment was inspired by childhood visits to Farnham Park in Camden.

Olivia is responsible for acquiring and developing parks and greenways in the City of Camden. She also serves as a member of the Pennsauken Township Environmental Commission and the Camden County Open Space Advisory Committee. She was recently honored by the Camden County Board of Freeholders for her role in making the county a more sustainable place to live.

*thank
you!*

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

New Members

Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

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Joyce Carmeli
David Carroll and Mary Enright
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Clement Chang
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Theodore Conklin
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Louis Discepolo

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Richard Feldman
Eric Fidoten
Robert Filocco
Jared Flesher
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Nora Freatis
Corradina Fronte
Matthew Garamone
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Andrea Kahn
Stefani Kasdin
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Dr. Patricia Kenschaft
Kathleen E. Klink

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Clara Kolarsick
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Oleg Krotoff
Izabela Lambert
Howard LaMell
Eileen Lanigan
Mr. David Larsen
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Mary Lauricella
Howard and Marceil Letts
Edward Leydon
Mr. Edward Linky
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Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

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Memorials

Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

Rocca Accettura
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Jean Buist Earle
Fred Cochran
Donna Besignano and Joseph Kwiatek
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Kerstin Codrington
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Jennifer Kushinka
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Frederick Jessel and Judy Jessel
Janet C. Jessel
Joyce Schnering
Joyce Wright
Ted Stiles
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Mathews
June Weisberg
Susan Schmidt
Phil Zoll
Robert Zoll

Tributes

Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

Jack Dempsey
Meredith and Ben Kimball
Beryl Doyle
Lois K. Stewart
Jeanne Eisele
Doris F. Forshner
Clem Fiori
Daniel Fiori
Louise and Alan Taback
Amy S. Greene
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Keri Hinshaw
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Dan Fuller and Celina Morgan-Standard
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It's easy to join New Jersey
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Become a Member Today!



Franklin Parker Grants Support Conservation Across New Jersey



Robyn Jeney of Saddler's Woods Conservation Foundation, right, gets help from Heidi Jacobs planting native plants in Haddon Township, a project funded by a Franklin Parker grant.

From urban parks to remote woodlands, grants from New Jersey Conservation Foundation are helping improve wildlife habitat, create trails, conduct research and launch education programs throughout New Jersey.

Over the past two years, New Jersey Conservation has awarded \$104,000 in small grants through the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants program.

"These grants encourage conservation organizations to take on new projects that they might not otherwise be able to afford," explained Laura Szwak, director of outreach and education for New Jersey Conservation.

Among the projects:

■ **The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey** conducted research to learn

more about the distribution and roosting behaviors of the Northern long-eared bat, a federally-endangered species.

■ **Isles Inc.** received a grant for "cleaning and greening" vacant lots and parks in Trenton to improve their appearance and expand public access.

■ **The Monmouth Conservation Foundation** launched a "Save the Butterfly" program to educate and engage youngsters about the environment.

■ **Friends of the Riverfront in Newark** organized a series of public river tours, walking tours and workshops in and around Riverfront Park along the Passaic River.

■ **The D&R Greenway Land Trust** created a "mosaic" wildflower meadow in Mercer County to benefit native species and pollinators.

■ **The Delaware Riverkeeper Network** is improving native habitat and water quality in Reverend Evers Park in Camden.

Named for Franklin Parker, a former New Jersey Conservation Foundation president and the first chair of the state Pinelands Commission, the grants program has been supporting conservation nonprofits for nearly two decades and was previously administered by Conservation Resources Inc. Funding for the program is made possible through the generous support of the Victoria Foundation and the Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation.

To learn more about the grants go to www.njconservation.org/FranklinParkerConservationGrants.htm.

Welcome New Staff

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes Tim Brill of Hopewell Township, Mercer County, who joined the staff in October as Central Jersey Project Manager.



In his new position, Tim will work to advance the preservation of open space and farmland and the development of parks, trails and greenways in the Central Jersey area.

Prior to joining New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Tim served as planning manager for the State Agriculture Development Committee for 15 years, supervising the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program and the State

Transfer of Development Rights Bank.

He helped develop the state's Planning Incentive Grant program, which targets the preservation of 300,000 additional acres of farmland in 18 counties and 47 municipalities.

Tim received a B.A. in geography from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in 1980, and is a New Jersey licensed professional planner.

Earlier in his career, Tim worked for the Cumberland County Department of Planning and Development, and the City of Bridgeton.

Meet Felysse Goldman, Langdon Palmer Intern



"Now I look at the landscape of New Jersey differently"

Felysse Goldman of Denville, a 2015 Rutgers University graduate, was a Langdon Palmer Scholarship intern during the fall of 2015. Felysse talks about her experiences:

"Being an intern at New Jersey Conservation Foundation has opened my eyes to the world of land conservation. I have always been interested in environmental policy/studies and love to be outdoors hiking and enjoying nature, so I was excited to find a place that was aligned with my interests and where I could learn something new.

As a Palmer intern, I got the chance to experience, firsthand, many of the projects and events run by Laura Szwak, the director of outreach & education. A meeting on mapping a blueprint of priority conservation lands gave me an insider's look into statewide conservation efforts, and showed me how interdisciplinary this field can be. I also got to help with event planning for the Land Trust Network of New Jersey.

I went on a field trip to Sparta Mountain with staff biologist Dr. Emile DeVito ... and it was worth having frozen toes from hiking around in the snow! I learned about the deer management

program that Tim Morris, stewardship director, organizes every year.

Most recently, I worked on the annual NJ Land Conservation Rally, an amazing experience. Whether it was compiling a list of workshop documents, creating posts for social media or working with the Planning Committee, I was able to use existing skills and learn new ones.

Before coming to NJ Conservation Foundation, I never realized how hard the land conservation community works to preserve the landscape in New Jersey. Nor did I realize how important the land is to the well-being of the environment, especially in a warming world. I never thought this one experience would lead me to a career field that I now wish to pursue. But now I look at the landscape of New Jersey differently: I appreciate the beauty and hope to be able to help conserve this beauty for others to enjoy."

The Palmer internship program is administered by the Alliance for Morris County Parks and named for Langdon "Don" Palmer, a conservation leader and philanthropist. Don served as a trustee and board president at New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Staff

Michele S. Byers, Executive Director

Erica Arlès, Administrative Assistant, Land Acquisition & Stewardship

Mark Barrick, Information Technology/Office Manager

Alix Bacon, Regional Manager, Western Piedmont

Scott Breeman, Easement Steward

Tim Brill, Central Jersey Project Manager

Sarah Carden, Membership Coordinator

Beth Davisson, Project Manager, Black River Greenway

Emile DeVito, Ph.D., Manager of Science & Stewardship

Wilma Frey, Senior Policy Manager

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

Olivia Glenn, Regional Manager, South Jersey Metro

Amy Hansen, Policy Analyst

Maria Hauser, Personnel Manager/Executive Assistant

Steven Jack, Land Steward

Chris Jage, Assistant Director, South Jersey

Russell Juelg, Land Steward

Matt Kappus, Associate Land Steward

William Lynch, Events Coordinator

Lisa MacCollum, Assistant Director of Land Acquisition

Alison Mitchell, Director of Policy

Stephanie Monahan, Development Assistant

Tim Morris, Director of Stewardship

Marie Newell, Project Coordinator, Acquisition

Tanya Nolte, GIS Manager

Sandy Stuart Perry, Communications Manager

Lauren Ramos, Development & Outreach Coordinator

Francis Rapa, Regional Manager, Delaware Bay Watershed

Karen Richards, CPA, Director of Finance & Administration

Greg Romano, Assistant Director & Director of Statewide Land Acquisition

Gerard Sauchelli, Land Steward

Susan Schmidt, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Bill Scullion, Land Steward

Eileen Swan, Policy Manager

Laura Szwak, Director of Outreach & Education

Ingrid Vandegaer, Regional Manager, Highlands Region

Kathleen Ward, Director of Development & Communications



NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Bamboo Brook | 170 Longview Road | Far Hills, NJ 07931

www.njconservation.org



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