

New Jersey Conservation

The world's first nearly-complete dinosaur skeleton was discovered in New Jersey in 1858, and paleontologists are still unearthing fossilized remains of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures at several active sites.

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Cover photo taken by Tom Ciriello at Overpeck County Park's Field Station: Dinosaurs in Leonia, NJ

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It's more important than ever that New Jerseyans choose a governor and legislators who are strong on safeguarding our land, water and air.



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From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

When dinosaurs roamed the Garden State

Some sixty-five million years ago, the place we know as New Jersey looked vastly different. The Earth was much warmer and sea levels were higher. Most of the southern half of our state was covered by a shallow sea.

Dinosaurs like the Hadrosaurus roamed the land, and giant crocodiles and lizard-like mosasaurs swam the sea. The coastline was far to the west of its current location, running diagonally from today's Salem County on the Delaware Bay to Monmouth County on the Raritan Bay.

The dinosaur era came to an end when an asteroid hit the Earth, causing a mass extinction. But many of New Jersey's prehistoric creatures were preserved as fossils. The world's first nearly-complete dinosaur skeleton was found in New Jersey in 1858, and paleontologists are still making great discoveries today – especially in the geological region known as the Inner Coastal Plain.

In this issue, you'll read about New Jersey's special role in dinosaur history, the work being done by paleontologists in the state's fossil-rich "hot spots," and how land preservation fits into the picture.

You'll also read about a preserve being established in central New Jersey's Sourland Mountains, a donor's generous gift that helped us expand the Hill & Dale Preserve in Hunterdon County, and why this year's gubernatorial election is critically important for New Jersey's environment and land preservation efforts.

Happy spring, and thank you for your steadfast support of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. With your help, we will make 2017 another fantastic year for preserving the best of the Garden State's natural places!

Michele S. Byers

All maps were created by Tanya Nolte, GIS Manager, NJ Conservation



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 Robert Bell



Photo by Robert Bell

ACTRESS EMMA BELL JOINS WALK ALONG PROPOSED PENNEAST ROUTE



Photo by Sandy Perry

More than 150 community members (and their dogs!) joined us November 13, 2016 for the annual Donald & Beverley Jones Memorial Hike. We traversed six miles of beautiful trails and farmland that is being threatened by the proposed PennEast Pipeline. Michele Byers, Executive Director, and Tom Gilbert, Campaign Director, were joined by actress Emma Bell and her Standing Ground documentary team (inset).

Hikers returned to the Prallsville Mills for the post-hike Pints Not Pipelines event, which raises funds and awareness to fight the pipeline. We toasted with Flying Fish beer, enjoyed Metropolitan Seafood delicacies, and danced to incredible live music with The Bins featuring Patty Cronheim.

Preserved forests and fields expand in Sourland Mountains

A nature preserve in central New Jersey's Sourland Mountains is growing, thanks to the recent addition of 151 acres in East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County.

This beautiful parcel was purchased from landowner John Higgins, with whom we've worked for years to preserve land in the Sourlands region.

The gently sloping property contains farm fields and woodlands, with panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and countryside.

It's now open to the public for various activities including hiking, horseback riding, bird watching and nature observation. We plan to create a trail system on the property while continuing to lease the fields to a local farmer.

In 2015 and 2016, we assisted Somerset County in purchasing 78 neighboring acres in Hillsborough Township from Mr. Higgins. The East Amwell and Hillsborough properties will now be managed as a single preserve.

When added to other previously preserved properties, the preserve now totals 758 acres.



Visitors to the Higgins property watch bald eagles soaring in the air. The Sourland Mountains region provides habitat for many other species, including wood thrush, scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds, yellow warblers, and rose-breasted grosbeaks.

The latest purchase was made possible by generous funding from partners: East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, Raritan Headwaters, The 1772 Foundation, Hunterdon Land Trust, and an anonymous donor.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is planning to preserve additional land owned by John Higgins to add to the new preserve.

The Sourland Mountains region is located midway between New York and Philadelphia, and contains central New Jersey's largest unbroken forest, with over 20,000 contiguous acres.

The forests and wetlands of the Sourlands protect headwater streams flowing to the Millstone, Raritan and Delaware rivers, and the Delaware & Raritan Canal. These forests

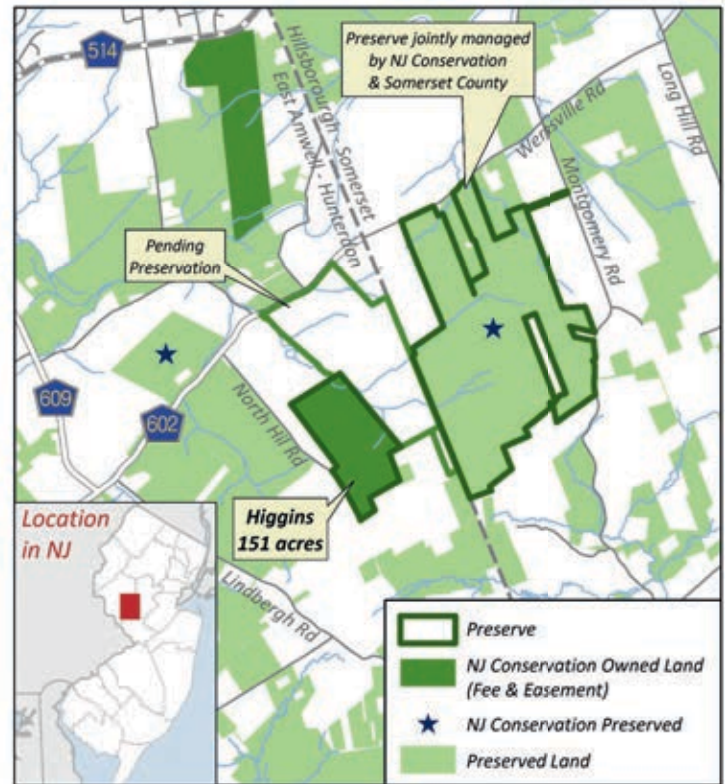
provide habitat to many threatened and endangered animal species including barred owl, bobcat, Cooper's hawk, and wood turtle.

The area also supports a large population of forest interior birds such as scarlet tanagers, Kentucky warblers and red-shouldered hawks. In addition, the region serves as a stopover for migratory birds that travel between South America and the boreal forests of Canada, and those that travel from Central America to New Jersey to breed.

The origin of the name "Sourlands" is a bit of a mystery. One theory is that it's derived from "sorrel-land," which describes the reddish-brown soil. Another is that it was named for the Sauerland region in Germany. A third possibility is that early Dutch settlers called it "sauer landt" because the rocky soil is sour, or difficult to farm.



Goats feed from a bale of hay at the newly-preserved Ray farm in Alloway Township, Salem County.



PRESERVING FARMS IN THE GARDEN STATE

HARRIS FARM, Quinton Township, Salem County – 118 acres of Jeffrey Harris' Mill Hollow Farm were preserved in December. The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) preserved approximately 100 acres of the farm with an agricultural easement that ensures the land will always be maintained for farming purposes. We preserved the farm's 18-acre forested riparian buffer under a separate conservation easement that requires that the forest be maintained. The forested buffer protects Keasbey's Creek, which runs into the Salem River and the Mannington Meadows tidal wetlands complex. This project was supported through the Open Space Institute's Bayshore Highlands Grant Fund, which is made possible with funding from the William Penn Foundation. The Bayshore Highlands Fund seeks to accelerate strategic land conservation in the New Jersey Bayshore and the Pennsylvania Highlands.

RAY FARM, Alloway Township, Salem County – Farm owner Henry Ray has been buying, selling, training, transporting and leasing horses for about 50 years. In late December, we helped him preserve 63 acres of the farm where he keeps his

horses and his daughter keeps a herd of about 80 goats. "I'm all about farm preservation, I think it's a great idea," he said. Our partners on the project were Alloway Township, Salem County, SADC, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

COLE FARM, Readington Township, Hunterdon County – The protection of the Readington Village Historic District got a boost in February with the preservation of a 21-acre farm that has been in the same family for nine generations. The Cole farm is the last remaining property of sizeable acreage in Readington Village, which is listed on the state and national Registers of Historic Places. The land first came into owner Robert Cole's family in the late 1700s when his ancestor Casper Berger, a German indentured servant and a mason by trade, was emancipated after fulfilling his obligation to build three homes in the area. Our partners on the project were Readington Township, SADC, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

THE FOSSIL STATE: New Jersey is a paleontology

**NEW JERSEY IS KNOWN AS THE
GARDEN STATE, BUT IT COULD JUST
AS EASILY BE THE FOSSIL STATE.**



hot spot

Running along the center of New Jersey, stretching from Salem County on the Delaware Bay to the Raritan Bay in Monmouth County, is a narrow diagonal band known to geologists as the Inner Coastal Plain.

During the Cretaceous period, when the earth was much warmer and sea levels higher, the Atlantic coastline followed the band of the Inner Coastal Plain. The shallow ocean was home to sea creatures like mosasaurs and giant crocodiles, and the carcasses of land-dwelling creatures occasionally would be swept out to sea.

Thanks to this ancient history, the sediments of the Inner Coastal Plain contain fossils of both land and sea creatures. Some of the region's most fossil-rich soils are greensand, known locally as "marl." Once sea floor, the greensand is so soft that paleontologists can dig with a garden trowel rather than having to chip through rock. Marl deposits are found throughout the Inner Coastal Plain, reflected in town names like Marlton and Marlboro.

The world's first nearly-complete dinosaur skeleton was discovered in New Jersey in 1858, and paleontologists are still unearthing fossilized remains of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures at several active sites.

"New Jersey is a great place to be if you're a paleontologist," says David Parris, paleontologist and head curator of natural history at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. "The first dinosaur in North America was found here, and we're still finding them now."

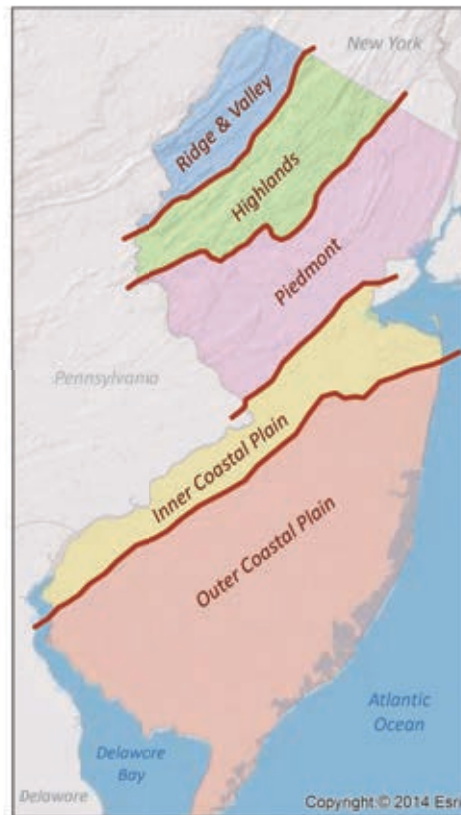
Of 11 fossil-rich geologic periods, nine are represented in New Jersey, including the Cretaceous, Jurassic and Triassic periods from 65 to 250 million years ago. Fossils have been found in 19 of the state's 21 counties.

Today's paleontologists are especially focused on fossils of the late Cretaceous period, found at sites in Monmouth, Burlington and Gloucester Counties.

David Parris, paleontologist and head curator of natural history at the New Jersey State Museum, collects fossil samples in the field in Hunterdon County.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation's land preservation work connects to two of these sites. We preserved one site in western Monmouth County in the 1970s, now part of Historic Walnford Park. The second, where a giant crocodile was discovered in 2016, is located next to land we preserved in the Vincentown formation.

continued on next page



New Jersey's geographic regions

New Jersey's diverse geological regions

New Jersey may be the fourth smallest state, but its geographic diversity more than makes up for its size. From steep Appalachian mountains to sandy ocean beaches, New Jerseyans are never far from a complete change of scenery.

The state's geology is composed of five distinct diagonal bands, natural regions formed by geological events that began hundreds of millions of years ago. Moving from northwest to southeast, the regions are:

The steep **Ridge & Valley** region, related to waves of Appalachian mountain building events of the Paleozoic Era from approximately 360 to 500 million years ago.

The rugged **Highlands**, tiny remnants of giant mountains formed during the Precambrian Era more than 545 million years ago. Rocks of this region are the state's oldest, formed before plant or animal life on land, and the first vertebrates were still about 25 million years short of swimming in the oceans.

The **Piedmont**, whose shales, siltstones, and volcanic basalts are much younger. They date from the Triassic and Jurassic periods of the Mesozoic Era, between 145 and 250 million years ago, when a shallow sea expanded after Africa broke off and slowly sailed away from North America.

The **Inner Coastal Plain**, southeast of the line between Trenton and New Brunswick, built primarily of sands of the seacoast during the Cretaceous Period that ended 65 million years ago. This region contains most the state's fossil hotspots.

The **Outer Coastal Plain**, the youngest region, is ocean bottom sand from the Cenozoic Era of the last approximately 60 million years. The region is located east of a rough line from Freehold to Salem, and is the foundation of the Pine Barrens.

With such diverse geography in a small state, you can travel 80 miles in a straight line from the Delaware Water Gap to the beaches of Asbury Park – passing through over half a billion years of earth history, recorded in the rocks.

continued from previous page

The Vincentown formation is a long and narrow geologic formation that runs along the ancient coastline through six New Jersey counties. The formation was laid down about 60 million years ago, during the Selandian Age of the Paleocene Epoch, about 5 million years after an asteroid strike ended the Cretaceous and wiped out all dinosaurs – except birds.

Dr. Emile DeVito, our staff biologist, visited three fossil sites on a NJ State Museum tour led by Parris last fall. As a bonus, the group took a side trip to New Jersey Conservation's Vincentown property, where Emile experienced the thrill of discovery as he unearthed a fossilized burrow made by an arthropod millions of years ago when the land was the bottom of a shallow sea.

Today's Fossil Hot Spots

Hadrosaurus bones, mosasaurs, giant sea turtles and giant crocodiles are some of the fossils being discovered in New Jersey today.

Parris said the preserved Monmouth County site, known as Ellisdale, is yielding thousands of fossils of all sizes, from large to microscopic. Most never go on display, but are safeguarded in the cabinets and drawers of the museum's "compact storage" area.

For example, one tiny treasure – barely larger than a thumbnail – is a complete lower jaw of a tiny land lizard. Other fossils unearthed at Ellisdale are even smaller, requiring a microscope for identification. "One coffee can full of matrix (fossil-filled rubble) can keep us busy for a couple of years," noted Parris.

Another active fossil site is a former Mantua Township sand quarry where mosasaurs – ancient sea monsters – have been discovered. Thanks to donors, Rowan University was able to purchase the quarry last November from the company that had mined it for about a century. Permanently preserved, it is now called the Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park and is available to Rowan University students, as well as schools and local residents attending "Community Dig" days.

Dr. Kenneth Lacovara, paleontologist and founding dean of Rowan's School of the Earth & Environment, said the Edelman Fossil Park could become internationally important because it contains a fossil layer with evidence of a sudden mass extinction caused by an asteroid hitting the Earth.



International Conference in Trenton

A mosasaur skull excavated at the Mantua site is now on display at the NJ State Museum ... and its sharp-toothed profile has become the logo for the 4th International Symposium on Paleohistology.

The Symposium will host scientists from around the world from July 8-12, shining a spotlight on the museum's fossil research.

Paleohistology is the microscopic study of fossil tissue, including bones, teeth, cartilage and egg shells from long-extinct creatures. The Symposium brings together researchers to exchange ideas, approaches and methodologies.

"It's a fairly new field, but it's growing," said Rodrigo Pellegrini, organizer of the conference and the museum's resident expert on paleohistology.

According to Pellegrini, there's much to be learned by studying the micro-structure of fossil tissue. For example, he said, researchers can find out an animal's growth rate, age of sexual maturity, lifespan, age of death, whether it was warm or cold blooded, and whether it was stressed by drought or malnourishment.

Haddonfield Discovery Site

The group of international scientists will get a firsthand opportunity to see the fossil-rich landscape of New Jersey during field trips to sites in the Inner Coastal Plain. One of the planned stops is Haddonfield, where "Haddy" the Hadrosaurus was found.

Unfortunately, this site is no longer available for excavation by paleontologists. In the 160 years since the discovery of the Hadrosaurus skeleton, significant development has overtaken the area.

All that remains is a small park and a plaque commemorating the event that put New Jersey dinosaurs on the map ... and a good reminder that saving New Jersey's open spaces may yield more exciting fossil discoveries in the future.

LEFT:

Visitors to the New Jersey State Museum crowd around the skull of a mosasaur – a giant swimming Komodo dragon – found in a former quarry in Gloucester County.



© Mineo Shiraishi

New Jersey's Dinosaur Discoveries

Millions of years before humans walked the Earth, a large duck-billed, plant-eating dinosaur died in what is now Haddonfield, New Jersey. The dinosaur's skeleton remained largely intact and, over the course of 65 to 80 million years, became fossilized in the greensand known as marl.

In 1858, fossil hobbyist William Parker Foulke visited Haddonfield and learned that a local farmer had spotted gigantic bones in a marl pit some 20 years earlier.

Foulke called in his friend, paleontologist Joseph Leidy, and hired a crew of diggers. They excavated the bones of an animal larger than an elephant, with structural features of both a lizard and a bird. The dinosaur was named *Hadrosaurus foulkii* (illustrated here), after Foulke and Haddonfield.

The *Hadrosaurus* was the world's first complete dinosaur skeleton, and the first ever to be displayed to the general public when it was put on exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Nicknamed "Haddy" and declared in 1991 to be New Jersey's official state dinosaur, the fragile *Hadrosaurus* skeleton is no longer on display but stored in climate-controlled conditions at the Academy. As a result of the discovery, Haddonfield is considered the birthplace of American paleontology.

Other notable New Jersey discoveries:

- The upper part of a leg bone of a giant Cretaceous sea turtle was found in Monmouth County in the early 1800s and eventually became part of the New Jersey State Museum's collection. In 2012, an amateur paleontologist named Gregory Harpel found a partial turtle bone in the same area of Monmouth County. He brought it to the museum, and it turned out to be the lower half of the same fossil. "It fit together just like a puzzle piece," marveled David Parris of the New Jersey State Museum, noting that finding two halves of the same bone 200 years apart is "unprecedented." Harpel donated his find, and the two halves are now displayed together.
- Two skulls of mosasaurs, described as giant swimming Komodo dragons, were found in a quarry in Mantua Township, Gloucester County, in 1961. Fifty years later, in 2011, paleontologists found another mosasaur skull in the same quarry.
- Just over a year ago, in February 2016, the fossil of a giant crocodile from 50 million years ago – named *thoracosaurus* – was discovered in Burlington County, on land next to a New Jersey Conservation property. It was spotted along a stream bank by a resident of the property. It isn't the only giant croc to be found in New Jersey, and indicates that these crocodiles once thrived here.

Hill & Dale Preserve expands to 300 acres

A multi-year effort to preserve nearly 300 acres of the landmark Hill & Dale Farm in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, was completed in late December with the purchase of another 100 acres.

The gently rolling land was added to the Hill & Dale Preserve, created in 2011 and managed for public recreation and enjoyment. The preserve begins in the Rockaway Creek valley and climbs the steep Hell Mountain, offering panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

Major funding for the \$1.2 million land purchase was provided by the River Branch Foundation, whose trustee, Jennifer Johnson Duke, is a Tewksbury native. Other funding came from Hunterdon County, Victoria

Foundation, Tewksbury Land Trust, The 1772 Foundation and numerous private donors.

"We love the gorgeous views from the top of the Hill & Dale Preserve and want to make sure this vista stays unchanged for all to enjoy," said Mrs. Duke. "We're thrilled that the community will have more land for hiking, riding horses, fishing and enjoying nature."

Mrs. Duke and her husband, Joseph, also provided support to preserve 50 acres of Hill & Dale in 2014.

The newly-preserved land includes two tributaries of the Rockaway Creek, a pristine trout production stream that flows into the Raritan River. A portion of the property will continue to be farmed and grazed, and a marked trail system is planned.

Historic Dairy and Horse Farm

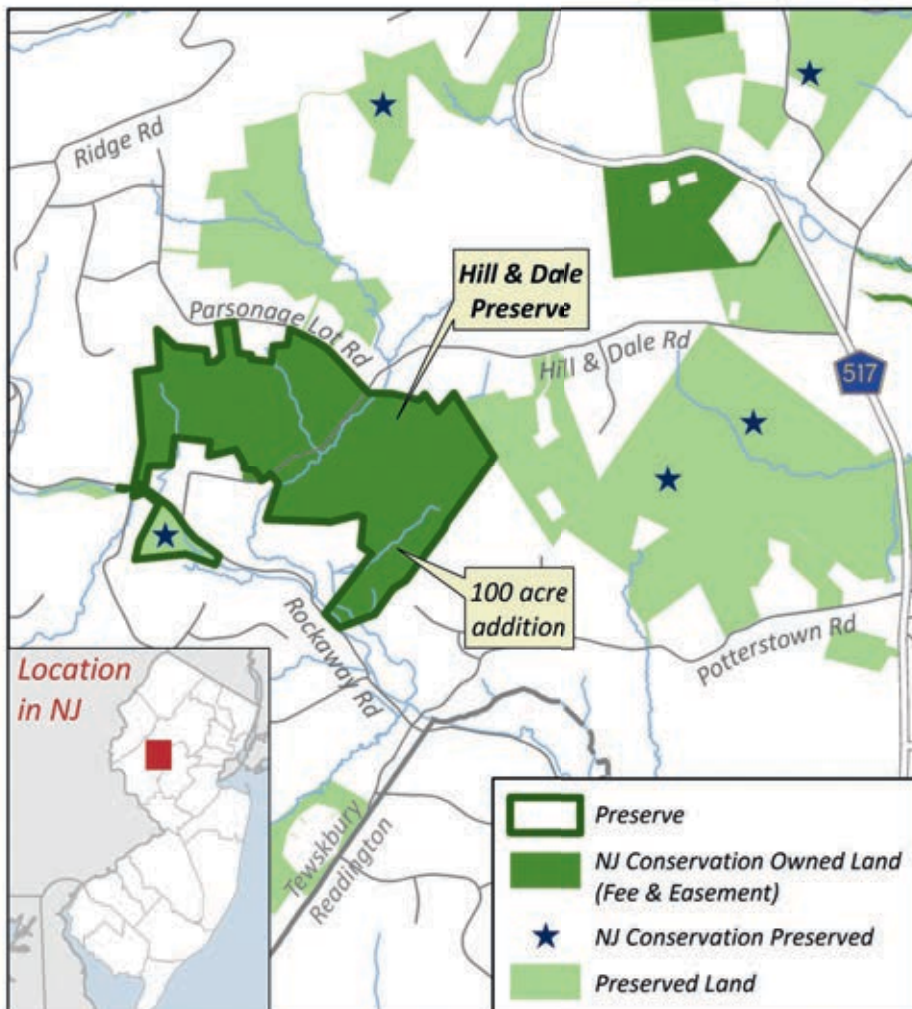
For nearly a century, Hill & Dale Farm operated as a dairy and horse farm that grew its own hay, corn and grains. Its graceful Dutch-style barns are an iconic sight along Tewksbury's rural backroads.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation began working in 2004 with the farm's longtime owners, the Rothpletz family, to preserve the majority of its acreage.

"We are delighted to complete our plan for preserving much of Hill & Dale Farm," said Michael Rothpletz. "We are very fortunate to have worked with New Jersey Conservation Foundation on this effort. Their dedicated and extremely effective staff was a great pleasure to work with and really deserve all the credit for making it happen. We look forward to continuing to work with New Jersey Conservation Foundation as our neighbor and friend."

The newly-preserved land adjoins hundreds of previously preserved acres, including Tewksbury Township's Hell Mountain Preserve, bringing the tally of contiguous preserved land to nearly 900 acres.

Thank you to our partners for making the Hill & Dale Preserve expansion possible!



To learn more about the Hill & Dale Preserve and download a trail map, go to www.njconservation.org/hillanddalepreserve.htm.

2017

GAINING GROUND

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved 702 acres from October 2016 through February 2017. These include preserved 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 ALL MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE THESE LANDS!

12 Projects

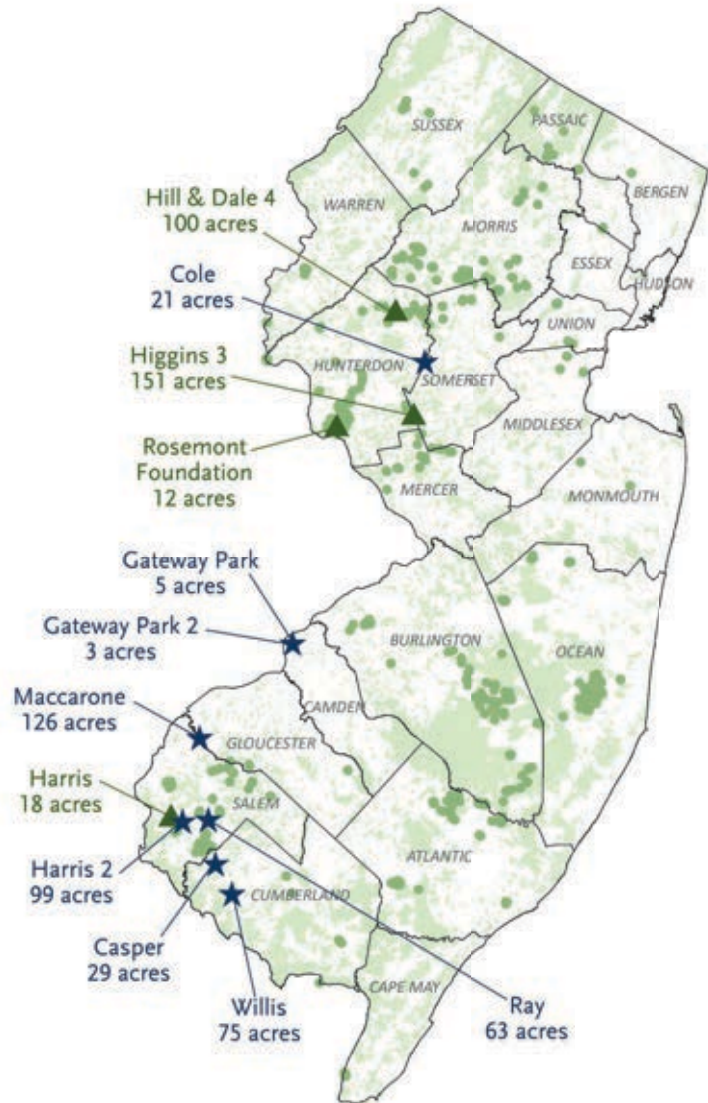
October 1 - Feb 28, 2017

▲ NJ Conservation Owned: 281 acres
(Fee or Easement)

★ Preserved in Partnership: 421 acres

TOTAL: 702 acres

- NJ Conservation Foundation Owned & 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!





Photo by Jesse Dittmar, www.jessedittmar.com

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY GEOLOGY PROFESSOR TULLIS C. ONSTOTT HAS ADDED TO THE GROWING DEBATE OVER THE PROPOSED PENNEAST PIPELINE, PROVIDING EVIDENCE THAT IT COULD INCREASE ARSENIC LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER.

Arsenic and the PennEast pipeline:

A Q&A with Dr. Tullis C. Onstott, Professor of Geosciences, Princeton University

Tullis C. Onstott, professor of geosciences at Princeton University, is taking an active role in the debate over the proposed PennEast pipeline by providing testimony and research to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The 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. One of Dr. Onstott's concerns is that the pipeline construction would increase arsenic in groundwater that supplies drinking water wells and streams in the area. Following are some of his thoughts.

Q. Can you please describe the geology of the New Jersey region where the PennEast pipeline is proposed, especially the presence of arsenic in the bedrock?

A. In Hunterdon County, the groundwater passes through sedimentary rock originally deposited in a Triassic-age lake. The rock is rich in radioactive elements and arsenic, and groundwater flows through fractures in the rock. Because the rock porosity is low and the arsenic is high, any disturbance of this system can potentially release substantial arsenic into the groundwater.

Q. What are the health effects of arsenic?

A. Arsenic is currently the leading contaminant in well water in this region of New Jersey. Arsenic is a poison and a carcinogen. Contaminated water used for drinking, food preparation and irrigation of food crops poses the greatest threat to public health from arsenic. Long-term exposure to arsenic from drinking-water and food has also been associated with skin lesions, developmental effects, cardiovascular disease, neurotoxicity and diabetes.

Q. How would the construction and operation of the pipeline impact the amount of arsenic in groundwater, well water and streams?

A. The proposed pipeline threatens to mobilize arsenic into our water. During construction, drilling and blasting will likely increase fracturing of bedrock, thus impacting groundwater flow around the pipeline and enhancing the leaching of arsenic and radioactive elements into the water. Once the pipeline is installed and operational, it will permanently enhance the rate of arsenic release into the groundwater. It will also change the pH, oxygen and carbon levels around the pipeline, enhancing the migration of arsenic to the recharge zones of the aquifer or directly into the aquifer from horizontally drilled boreholes. Consequently, arsenic levels in private and public wells may increase. Arsenic levels in our streams could also increase to a point where these waters exceed water quality standards and threaten aquatic species. Over the course of years, this arsenic

plume will migrate further and further away from the pipeline, thus impacting more of our water.

Q. Is there evidence of this happening with other pipelines?

A. Yes. Many scientific publications exist on the migration of arsenic plumes produced from leaking underground pipelines. These arsenic plumes last for decades and they migrate hundreds of yards from the pipeline. It is because our understanding of the microbiology and the geochemistry of arsenic cycling has advanced significantly in the past 10 years, that we recognize the potential threat to our environment. Even the American Petroleum Institute treats arsenic contamination of groundwater as a significant environmental issue.

Q. Does the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC'S) draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) adequately address the arsenic issue?

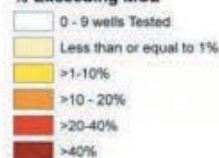
A. Yes, indeed, FERC's draft EIS does directly address the arsenic danger. They state that they anticipate that the pipeline will increase the arsenic exposure to the groundwater of this region. Their recommendation to PennEast is that they provide arsenic filters to those residents whose wells show higher arsenic levels during the construction of the pipeline.

Q. Do you believe filters would effectively remove the danger?

A. The Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection both agree that this is inadequate. My recommendation is that this issue requires far more study in order to understand just how bad the cumulative impact will be over the long term, because there is no way to predict the impact with simplistic laboratory experiments. The outcome of such a study could determine whether arsenic-rich Hunterdon County should be treated as an exclusion zone for projects like the PennEast pipeline.

**Percent of Private Wells in Municipalities Exceeding the Arsenic MCL
MCL = 5 ug/L**

**PWTA Results 9/2002 to 4/2009
% Exceeding MCL**



The proposed PennEast pipeline (represented by the green line above) would run through a region with some of the state's highest concentrations of arsenic in groundwater and private wells. This map is adapted from a 2012 study by Judy Louis, PhD.



Green governor needed in New Jersey

Sweeping changes have come to Washington, D.C. with a new administration in charge of clean water, clean air, parks, forests and wildlife. Decades of hard-won protections for the environment are in danger of being rolled back at the federal level.

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection relies heavily on federal funding to meet its mandates – funding that is now uncertain.

Although New Jersey may not be able to rely on the federal Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies to defend our position in upholding our state's environmental protections, New Jersey is far from helpless.

This year, New Jerseyans will elect a new governor to replace Governor Chris Christie, whose term is expiring. All 40 seats in the New Jersey Senate and 80 seats in the Assembly will be up as well.

In the face of eroding federal protections, it's more important than ever that New Jerseyans elect a green governor, along with legislators who are strong on safeguarding our land, water and air.

In the face of eroding federal protections, it's more important than ever that New Jerseyans elect a green governor, along with legislators who are strong on safeguarding our land, water and air.

As election season gets under way, it will be vital to educate candidates and voters alike.

Candidates need to recognize how high the stakes are and understand how strong state environmental protections can help compensate for weakened protections at the federal level. Voters need to know where every candidate stands on protecting New Jersey's land, clean water, clean air and healthy communities.

That's why New Jersey Conservation Foundation is working with the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and other partner groups in their "Green in '17" campaign. That effort will educate gubernatorial candidates on environmental issues that need the attention of the next administration.

Here are some examples of current environmental issues and concerns:

- Protecting our state's water resources;
- Ensuring that land preservation funds flow quickly and are not diverted for other purposes;
- Moving New Jersey forward on clean energy to counter the threats to preserved lands from unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure sprawl;
- Addressing the threat of climate change, including sea level rise;
- Promoting the importance of regional planning commissions like the Pinelands Commission and the Highlands Council;
- Ensuring permanent protection of the Palisades Cliffs;
- Protecting New Jersey's natural heritage, including rare plants and animals;



Former Governor James Florio, second from left, joined New Jersey Conservation Foundation staff members at a February news conference on the need to elect a green governor in 2017. With Governor Florio are, from left, Tom Gilbert, campaign director for energy, climate and natural resources; Michele S. Byers, executive director; and Alison Mitchell, policy director.

■ Ensuring the passage of November's ballot question to dedicate money received in compensation for environmental damages to environmental projects so it cannot be diverted for other purposes.

Christie Administration Rollbacks

During Governor Christie's eight years in office, New Jersey has experienced significant rollbacks and lost momentum in its longstanding efforts to protect land, water and air. For example, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection proposed rule changes last year that would weaken protections for water in the environmentally sensitive Highlands region by increasing septic system density.

Other changes weakening the state's flood hazard and stormwater management rules were adopted in 2016. Appointments to important regional planning commissions in the Pinelands and Highlands have largely favored development interests over conservation.

Earlier in the Christie administration, New Jersey took a step backward on climate change when the governor withdrew the state from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cooperative effort among states in the northeastern United States to cap and reduce carbon dioxide pollution from power plants. A 2015 study found that RGGI contributed significantly to a decline in emissions in the region, which currently consists of nine states. Under new leadership New Jersey can rejoin RGGI and become part of the solution again.

New Jersey now has the opportunity to resume its place as a leader in environmental protection. Our state can continue to uphold and adopt clean water and clean air policies that are more stringent than federal standards, and it can move forward on action against climate change. All it takes is political will and leadership from a new green governor.



Photo by Sandy Perry



21st Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally

More than 350 land preservation professionals and volunteers came together in New Brunswick on March 17 for the 21st annual NJ Land Conservation Rally, a one-day educational conference about open space and farmland preservation.

This year's theme was "Healthy Land... Healthy Water" and Dr. David Robinson, New Jersey's State Climatologist and Geography Professor at Rutgers University, gave the keynote speech on the role of land use as New Jersey's climate changes.

Twenty-four educational workshops and 5 roundtables explored topics like "Moving from Pipelines to Renewables," "The New Jersey Lands Blueprint: A New Tool to Accelerate Conservation," and "Landscaping for Healthy Water with Jersey-Friendly Yards."

Among the exhibitors were farmers who showcased samples of their products, such as flowers and honey, and an Irish band created an atmosphere to help everyone "celebrate green."

For more information about the annual NJ Land Rally, visit www.njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm



Photo by Dylan Barrick



New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges donors who made contributions between September 2016 and December 2016. With your support, we will work hard to preserve and protect New Jersey's lands.

New Members

(from September 2016
to December 2016)

Valerie B. Ackerman
Christine Alber
Soomi Amagasu
Robert E. Anderson
B.J. Andrew
John Balletto
Simona Balzer
Walter Barist
Denise Erickson and James Bark
Al Bentley
Mark Beutnagel
Joan Bharucha
David and Jacqueline Bolsman
Vincent Bonanno
Karen Bradley
Francis Brennan
David K. Brown
Linda Bukovec
Susan Burton
Anthony and Monica Bussanich
Judy Buttle
Teresa Callahan
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Stephen Carlson
William L. Castagno
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Mr. and Mrs. Donald Chierici, Jr.
Mr. Michael R. Chioffe
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Bill Claus
Deborah Collins
Elinor Whitney Collins
Charles Cruickshank
Shirley Culman
Gwen Culver
Karen D'Orazio
Nicholas J. Dazzo
Yvonne De Carolis
Jean Denes
James DiPietro
Ted and Jess Deutsch
Armon W. Diedrich, Jr.
Nancy DiSalvi
Jeanne Doremus
Molly Ellsworth
David C. Epler
Laurel Erdman
Joel M. Ergas
Robert and Joy Ericksen
Eolo and Wafa Esposito
Ellen V. Ewing
Judy Fairless
Carol F. Feeny Potts
Dr. and Mrs. David Feinblum

Alan Field
Marilyn S Fishman
Melva Fitting
William Flemer
Noel K. Foley
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory D. Foster
Ross Fried
Marlene J. Fuller
Sean Gallagher
Harry W. Geiler
Mr. Steven B. Gelb
Emily Ginder
Murray and Shirley Goldberg
Roe W. Goodman
Mary Ann Gordon
Richard Gorman
Anita Grammatico
Beth Gross
Heather Haberle
Helen Hartkopf
Gregory Hartman
John L. Henderson
Richard Hershkopf
Karen Hertzog and Chris Stoddard
Angelika Heuer
Carolyn Heuser
Richard Hoover
Giles Houghton
Steven Berry Johnston
Harry Jones
Dennis and Barbara Kalichstein
Theresa and John Kashner
Dr. Andrew Kasper
Daniel Keating
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. King
Cynthia Kingsford
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Denise Koetas-Dale
Barbara Koning-Pankow
Thomas Kosiba
James Kotronis
Fred Kurtz
Dorothy Kwiatkowski
Michael and Donna Lacey
Rudolph F. Lalak
William Lalor
Steven E. Lane
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Valerie LeBlanc
David Lee
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Lydia Lenaghan
William and Joan Lesko
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Gerald and Victoria List
Jennifer Lublin and David Rojer
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Maril McFaul
Trish McGuire
Lindsay McNamara
Jane Michael
James Miller
Barry Mirsky
Joan Montanari
Elizabeth Monteleone
Peter Mooney
Elliott Moxley
Frank H. Moyer
Gene Muller
Aloysius and Janice Murasko
Daqi Murphy
Andrew B. Myers
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Ruth Nicolich
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Mr. and Mrs. Sonya Zuccarelli
Michael Zuckerman

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(from September 2016
to December 2016)

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 Beth Yingling
 Robert Zappalorti, Sr.
 Todd Zimmerman and Laurie Volk

Memorials

(from September 2016
 to December 2016)

Richardson Buist
 Jean Buist Earle

C. Austin Buck
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Blanchard
 Michele S. Byers
 Elaine Hanington
 Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn
 Basil and Rilda Hone
 Peter and Cynthia Kellogg
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Klipstein, II
 Anne B. Shumadine

Lillie R. DeBevoise
 Jeffrey Bradley
 Michele S. Byers
 Catherine A.M. Cavanaugh
 Edward Cissel
 Jane DeBevoise
 Sally C. Greenwood
 Risa Greiss and Jeannette Howard
 Ellen Nalle Hass
 Ann B. Hastings
 Janet Johnson
 Catherine Keim
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas
 Margetts, III
 Mrs. James C. Pitney
 Alyson Shumeyko
 Victoria Shurtleff

Hildegard and Helmuth Hanssler
 Dr. Ingeborg D. Bossert

Frederick Jessel and Judy Jessel
 Janet C. Jessel

Tributes

(from September 2016
 to December 2016)

Emile DeVito
 Adam Brandt

Beryl Doyle
 Lois K. Stewart

Jeanne Eisele
 Doris F. Forshner

Clem Fiori
 Daniel and Margery Fiori

Wilma Frey
 Adam Brandt

Glenn Gabai
 Bethanne L. Mowery

Cynthia Kellogg
 Joseph and Evelyn Prather

William R. Lynch
 Daniel Lynch

Betsy Schnorr
 Eric Schnorr

Kathleen Ward
 Kate Booth

In honor of the Clients
 of Ronald Berlin Architect, PC:
 James Baxter
 Patrick Bernuth & Michelle McKenna
 Alastair Binnie & Zoe Brookes
 Jon & Jenny Crumiller
 Michael and Betsy Dutka
 Kian Esteghamat & Amy Craft
 Dan Fuller & Celina Morgan-Standard
 Ellen Gilbert & Frank Castellana
 Steve Weiss & Martha Himmelfarb
 Ethan Kapstein & Benedicte Callan
 Emily Mackie
 Lance & Pat Mervine
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 Peter and Linda Sciarra

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Whether it's farmland, woodland
 or wetland, New Jersey Conservation
 Foundation protects open spaces
 in your towns, cities and the places
 you love to visit.

But we can't do it alone.
 We need members
 to help us save lands at risk.

As a private, not-for-profit
 organization, we rely on donations
 from members who care about preserv-
 ing New Jersey's precious land and
 resources for future generations.

Help keep nature in New Jersey! Join New Jersey Conservation Foundation to preserve land and natural resources.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY.

Visit our website at www.njconservation.org/donate.htm

**Key**

BB — Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center

FPP — Franklin Parker Preserve

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.

REGISTER
TODAY!

email
blynch@njconservation.org
or call
908-234-1225

Wednesday, May 3
8 – 10 a.m.

Spring Migration Bird Walk – Meadows & Edges

BB

Wednesday, May 10
8 – 10 a.m.

Spring Migration Bird Walk – Forest Interior

BB

Wednesday, May 17
8 – 10 a.m.

Birding By Ear

BB

Saturday, June 17
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Butterflies of the Franklin Parker Preserve

FPP

Friday, June 23
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Early Summer Butterflies

BB

Saturday, July 15
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Blueberry Picking

FPP

Friday, July 21
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Mid-Summer Butterflies

BB

Saturday, July 22
8 – 11 p.m.

Moth Night

FPP

Friday, August 11
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Late Summer Butterflies

BB

Wednesday, September 13
8 – 10 a.m.

Wayward Warblers

BB

Wednesday, October 11
8 – 10 a.m.

Fall Migration Bird Walk

BB

Wednesday, October 18
8 – 10 a.m.

Searching for Sparrows

BB

Saturday, November 18
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wild for a Day!

FPP

remembering Lillie DeBevoise and C. Austin Buck

New Jersey Conservation Foundation lost two longtime environmental champions and friends with the recent passing of Lillie Ryan DeBevoise and C. Austin Buck.



Lillie, a former resident of New Vernon, was a staunch conservation advocate since the 1960s, when she and her husband, Charlie, were part of a grassroots effort to stop the Port Authority from building an international “jetport” in the Great Swamp of Morris County. The effort succeeded and the threatened land became the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The citizens group, known as the Great Swamp Committee, evolved into New Jersey Conservation Foundation

and Charlie became one of our founding trustees.

Lillie was recognized for her contributions to the preservation of the Great Swamp in the recent documentary “Saving the Great Swamp,” in which she appears on-camera. A graduate of Vassar College, she taught seventh and eighth grade English at the Kent Place School for almost 20 years. She is survived by her three children, Jane, Anne and Charles DeBevoise; and her sister, Seddon Ryan Wyld.

Austin, a resident of Bernardsville, cared passionately about the environment and education. He served on the NJ Conservation Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2006 and later on our Advisory Council. A businessman, he worked in his family’s mineral import and export company, Leonard J. Buck & Co., and co-founded Hall-Buck Marine, a shipping and marine

services business that operated terminals throughout the country.

Austin was an accomplished sportsman and enjoyed fly fishing and hunting upland birds. In addition to New Jersey Conservation Foundation, he served on the boards of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Ethel Walker School, Blooming Grove Hunting & Fishing Club and the Morristown Club. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite; his three children, Belinda Buck Kielland, Wendy Buck Brown and Leonard Jerome Buck; and his sisters, Nancy Buck Pyne and Martha Buck Bartlett.



We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lillie and Austin.

Welcome New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Heidi Roldan as Corporate and Foundation Relations Coordinator, Jane Gardner as Campaign Project Assistant and Allison Williams as Easement Steward.



Prior to joining New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Heidi was an environmental consultant at Tetra Tech, Inc. in Morris Plains for 22 years, where she served as

a project manager and regulatory compliance specialist. Heidi received a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Rutgers University, and a master's degree in environmental management from New Jersey Institute of Technology. She enjoys spending time outdoors, especially hiking, kayaking, boating, camping and gardening.

Jane joined New Jersey Conservation Foundation team to work on the pipeline campaign. She has over 15 years of experience working at non-profit organizations, specifically in government affairs, public policy and public health. Most recently, she worked as a research analyst

and state reporting associate at a large insurance company. Jane earned her Bachelor of Science degree in public health from William Paterson University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.



Allison is responsible for the monitoring and stewardship of our easements. Her previous experience includes habitat restoration, endangered species monitoring, and volunteer management with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in California and Delaware State Parks. A New Jersey native, Allison holds a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science from the University of Delaware.

Staff

Michele S. Byers, Executive Director

Erica Arles, Administrative Assistant, Land Acquisition & Stewardship

Alix Bacon, Regional Manager, Western Piedmont

Mark Barrick, Information Technology/Office Manager

Tim Brill, Central Jersey Project Manager

Beth Davisson, Project Manager, Black River Greenway

Justin Dennis, Camden Land Steward

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

Wilma Frey, Senior Policy Manager

Jane Gardner, Campaign Project Assistant

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

Olivia Glenn, South Jersey Regional Manager

Amy Hansen, Policy Analyst

Maria Hauser, Personnel Manager/Executive Assistant

Steven Jack, Land Steward

William Lynch, Assistant Director, Education Programs & Communications

Lisa MacCollum, Assistant Director of Land Acquisition

Alison Mitchell, Director of Policy

Stephanie Monahan, Pine Barrens Regional Manager

Timothy Morris, Director of Stewardship

Marie Newell, Project Coordinator, Acquisition

Tanya Nolte, GIS Manager

Sandy Stuart Perry, Staff Writer

Lauren Ramos, Development & Outreach Coordinator

Francis Rapa, Regional Manager, Delaware Bay Watershed

Karen Richards, CPA, Director of Finance & Administration

Heidi Marie Roldan, Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager

Greg Romano, Assistant Director & Director of Statewide Land Acquisition

Gerard Sauchelli, Associate Land Steward

Susan Schmidt, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Bill Scullion, Land Steward, South Jersey

Laura Szwak, Director of Outreach & Education

Ingrid Vandegaer, Manager, Highlands Region

Kathleen Ward, Director of Development & Communications

Allison Williams, Easement Steward



EACH YEAR WE WELCOME A GROUP OF FANTASTIC INTERNS WHO ASSIST WITH PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE ORGANIZATION. This spring's group included (left to right) Danny LoGatto of Drew University, Christina Alexx of Morris County Community College, and Amanda Colombo of St. Peters College.



NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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

www.njconservation.org



Join Our E-mail List

We'd like to have your e-mail address so we can keep you updated on New Jersey Conservation Foundation news, programs and events.

Please send your e-mail address to info@njconservation.org or call 1-888-LANDSAVE (1-888-526-3728).

BIOBLITZ

MOUNT ROSE PRESERVE

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

MOUNT ROSE PRESERVE, HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, NJ

JOIN EXPERTS AS THEY IDENTIFY AS MANY SPECIES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS AS POSSIBLE!

[HTTP://NJCONSERVATION.ORG/MOUNTROSEPRESERVEBIOBLITZ.HTM](http://NJCONSERVATION.ORG/MOUNTROSEPRESERVEBIOBLITZ.HTM) FOR MORE INFO

