

New Jersey Conservation



Photo by Beverly Jones

- 3 **PROTEC**
Land sold to the state will help protect the
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Permanently preserving family farms keeps the G
- 8 **PEN**
New report shows proposed pipeline would not fil



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

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ON THE COVER

Last year, New Jersey Conservation Foundation permanently preserved 442 acres in the heart of the Pine Barrens, including 5.5 miles of pristine streams. Formerly owned by the Birches Cranberry Company, the land is now open to the public for hiking and birding and is being managed as part of the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve. Our incredible cover image was taken by award-winning photographer and Pine Barrens resident Albert D. Horner.



From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

By 2050, New Jersey is projected to reach full build-out, with all lands from High Point to Cape May either preserved or developed. What will that look like? That will depend on what we do in the next three decades.

For the past year, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has been envisioning the Garden State's best possible future:

- Most of our fertile, vital farmland is preserved and local foods are readily available in all communities.
- Huge swaths of parklands and forests are preserved, and all New Jerseyans have easy access to safe and welcoming natural areas, parks and trails within walking distance of their homes.
- Water sources in the Highlands and Pinelands are permanently protected.
- A comprehensive climate change plan is helping to protect coastal communities and floodplains from sea level rise and increased flooding;
- New Jerseyans have developed a deep appreciation for the diversity of the state's natural heritage, plants, animals and landscapes, and are willing to defend special places from threats.
- New Jersey has transitioned away from polluting fossil fuels to clean, renewable, appropriately-sited energy sources

No one individual, group, or agency can do this alone. We must work together to keep protecting lands and natural resources that make New Jersey special; ensuring access to nature for all New Jerseyans; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and engaging people in nature to build a dynamic and robust conservation constituency that reflects the diversity of New Jersey's communities. Let's get started!

For nearly 60 years, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has worked to preserve natural lands, parks, farms, wildlife habitat and water resources for the benefit of all. With your support and partnership, we're looking forward to the challenges of the next 30! **Join us!**

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.



Join us

for outdoor adventure & education!



You can register for these programs (most of which are completely free) by visiting our website at <https://www.njconservation.org/events/>

Our Step Into Nature series of outdoor programs invite New Jerseyans to explore different parts of the state in fun and unique ways. ***Listen for owls calling under a full moon. Pick juicy blueberries in the heart of the Pine Barrens. Practice forest bathing techniques as migrating warblers sing overhead.***



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are large, golden-brown fields, likely harvested corn. In the middle ground, there are several farm buildings, including a large red barn and some smaller structures. The background shows more fields and a small cluster of houses or a village under a clear sky.

FROM

Highlands Views

TO

Fertile Fields

FOUR FAMILY FARMS PRESERVED IN SALEM COUNTY

Four Salem County farms totaling 170 acres were preserved with the help of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, adding to the more than 37,000 preserved acres that make Salem County the state's farmland preservation leader.

The lands preserved are the 81-acre Bishop Brothers potato farm in Upper Pittsgrove Township and three farms in Pilesgrove Township: the 16-acre Stoms farm, the 34-acre Wentzell farm and the 39-acre Atanasio farm.

Salem County purchased the development rights on all four farms, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service grants to New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

The Bishop, Stoms, Wentzell and Atanasio families still own their farmland, but the properties are now permanently restricted to agricultural uses.

Bishop Brothers

If you like potato chips and live in New Jersey or Pennsylvania, there's a good chance you've munched on chips made from potatoes grown in the Bishop Brothers' fields. Bruce and Tom Bishop farm about 1,000 acres in Upper Pittsgrove, mostly devoted to "chip potatoes," dense varieties with less moisture than spuds grown for the fresh market. Thousands of tons of their chip potatoes are sold each year to snack brands like Wise, Herr's, Cape Cod and Utz.

For well over 100 years, members of the Bishop family have grown potatoes in the fertile soils of Salem County. "I think we're six or seven generations of potato farmers," said Bruce Bishop.



Bruce and Tom currently own about 800 acres of the lands they farm, and many of those acres are permanently preserved. For the Bishops, a big advantage to selling the development rights on their farmland is that it provides them capital to reinvest in their business. "It just makes it more affordable to buy more ground," explained Bruce.

For instance, the proceeds from the sale of their 81-acre property in December were used in January to buy another 55-acre parcel, also located in Upper Pittsgrove. Previously, the sale of development rights on 265 acres also helped them buy additional farmland.

In addition to growing chip potatoes, the Bishops grow several potato varieties for the fresh market, as well as spinach, sweet corn and peas for the Seabrook Farms frozen vegetable brand. They also

grow crops like soybeans, wheat and feed corn as part of their crop rotation schedule. To keep soil nutrients balanced, Bruce said, fields used for growing potatoes one year will be planted in different crops the next three.

Stoms Farm

Another newly-preserved farm is owned by the family of Bill Stoms, a longtime advocate of farmland preservation. The 16 acres of hayfields are adjacent to the Cowtown Rodeo grasslands preserved last spring, and are currently leased to the Cowtown owners.

"For me, preserving this property was quite personal," said Bill. "It was one of the last things my dad asked for before he passed in 2013."

Although Bill was not a farmer – he spent his career as a college administrator – his family's agricultural roots run deep in Salem County. His great-great-grandfather, Joel Coleman, first bought farmland in Alloway Township in 1863.

In the 1980s, Bill founded "Save Our Land," an organization with a mission of promoting the then-struggling farmland preservation program in Salem County. Save Our Land was formed largely in response to a major housing development proposal, and resulted in the State of New Jersey preserving land for what is now the Featherbed Lane Wildlife Management Area.

Bill also went to every major agricultural municipality in the county, persuading governing bodies to pass resolutions supporting farmland preservation and establishing municipal farmland preservation programs. Bill currently serves on the Salem County Planning Board and as liaison to the county's Agriculture Development Board.

Wentzell Farm

Wayne Wentzell is another farmer with a long family history in Salem County.

"My grandfather started the farm in the early 1900s, and in about 1918 he started dairy farming there," Wayne recalled. Over the years, his grandfather and father added to their holdings. Wayne and his brother, Ken, bought the farm in 1981 and continued adding land, eventually bringing their holdings to nearly 250 acres.

In 2010, the Wentzells switched from dairy cows to field crops like corn, soybeans and hay, and also beef cattle. "It's like being semi-retired," Wayne joked, noting that running a dairy farm is a 365 days per year job.

Wayne and his wife, Marlene, just preserved 34 acres of fields that they own. "We wanted it see it stay agricultural," he said. "We did it for the simple fact that we were raised on the farm and always worked on the farm."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

IMPACT *at a* GLANCE

4 = 170
FAMILY FARMS SAVED ACRES

the properties are now permanently restricted to agricultural uses

This isn't the first Wentzell family farm to be preserved. Five years ago, Wayne and Ken preserved the original 84 acres directly through a state program. And there may be more Wentzell farmland preserved in the future: the brothers are interested in preserving a 107-acre farm they own jointly, and Ken is considering preservation for a 21-acre farm he owns individually.

Now that the development rights on the newly-preserved farm have been extinguished, the land can eventually be sold to another farmer for a more affordable price than land with development potential.

But at age 70, Wayne has no immediate plans to retire - and neither does his brother, who's five years older. "We enjoy what we're doing and will do it as long as we can," Wayne said.

The Wentzell farm borders preserved farmland to the north and a State Wildlife Management Area to the east. Preservation of the Wentzell farm buffers the wildlife habitat on the wildlife management area and protect the hydrology of the site.

Atanasio Farm

Phil Atanasio raises beef cattle and horses on the Pilesgrove Township farm he has owned since 1987. "I'm a carpenter and I always wanted to live on a farm, so I created it," said Phil, who also grows hay to feed his animals in winter.

He decided to preserve his farm because it is contiguous to other preserved farms, including the Byrnes farm preserved in the summer of 2018. It's also near the Harris family's preserved Cowtown Rodeo grasslands.

"Most of the farms around me are preserved, and my property ties together the properties on both sides," Phil explained. "This is a really nice area and it has really good soil, which is why we call this the Garden State. I like to see us be able to retain the title of Garden State."

The Atanasio farm is composed of 96 percent prime and statewide soils, the highest classifications for agricultural productivity. "If someone else ever wants to farm the land, it would be great for vegetables," Phil said, noting that previous owners grew asparagus, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes and other vegetable crops there.

The farm also has a spring-fed creek running through it, which provides water to two ponds on the property.

44 HILLY ACRES PRESERVED IN SUSSEX COUNTY



Hikers and nature enthusiasts now have more hills to climb and vistas to admire, with the addition of 44 forested acres in Byram Township. The land has been added to the Cranberry Overlook Greenway.

Byram Township purchased the land last fall, more than a decade after acquiring the Greenway's original 47 acres. Funding came from the township's New Jersey Green Acres Program grant, a grant to New Jersey Conservation Foundation from the Open Space Institute, and funds from the New Jersey Highlands Council.

The Open Space Institute Funds were made possible from the William Penn Foundation as part of its Delaware River Watershed Initiative, which seeks to protect drinking water quality in the Delaware River Basin.

Characterized by steep hills and rocky outcrops, the former Johnson property is now open to the public for passive recreation. Plans call for extending existing trail networks onto the property.

"Byram Township is known as the 'Township of Lakes,' and it's also a place with significant open space and trails," said Ray Bonker, Byram Township's Open Space Committee chairman. "Preserving the Johnson property will allow us to add to our trail network, which includes the Cranberry Overlook Trail and Tamarack Park Trail."

The property is in the Highlands Special Environmental Zone, the highest priority for preservation. The land's mix of oak and sugar maple trees and vernal wetlands provides habitat for rare species, including bobcats, barred owls, broad winged and red-shouldered hawks, hooded and worm-eating warblers, veerys, wood thrushes and least flycatchers.

"Not only are we able to permanently protect some very important habitat and watershed lands from future development, but the public will be able to enjoy this richly forested land that really showcases all the Highlands has to offer," said Lisa J. Plevin, executive director of the Highlands Council.

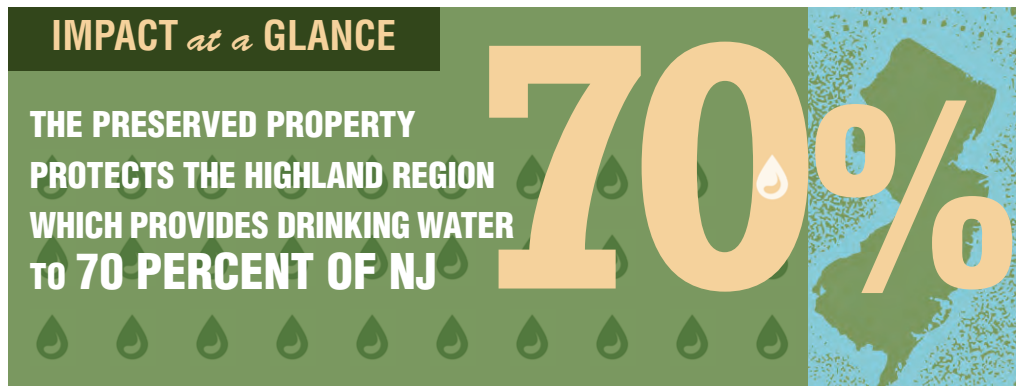
The Highlands region provides drinking water for 70 percent of New Jersey residents. The newly preserved property protects forested wetlands that filter and purify the headwaters of the Musconetcong River, a major tributary of the Delaware River.

The land is near other preserved parks and open space, including Allamuchy State Park, Tamarack Park, C.O. Johnson Park and the Sussex Branch Trail. New Jersey Conservation owns a nearby 153-acre preserve, which includes scenic Johnson Lake.

IMPACT *at a* GLANCE

THE PRESERVED PROPERTY
PROTECTS THE HIGHLAND REGION
WHICH PROVIDES DRINKING WATER
TO 70 PERCENT OF NJ

70%





Pine Barrens habitat restored at Candace Ashmun Preserve

A year ago, a small pond in the Pine Barrens of Ocean County, just off the Garden State Parkway, was an ecological disaster. Its banks were torn up and its waters muddy as a result of monster trucks and other off-road vehicles (ORVs) roaring through it.

The little pond in the Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River Mountain is not unique. Countless streams, wetlands and ponds throughout the Pine Barrens are destroyed by illegal ORV riders, who flagrantly ignore laws meant to protect wildlife, habitats and water quality.

“Many ORV riders intentionally drive through wetlands and ponds, and up and down streams,” said Tim Morris, our director of stewardship. “They don’t seem to be deterred by ‘no trespassing’ signs.”

The Ashmun Preserve is especially vulnerable to damage because of its proximity to the Parkway, which sees a steady flow of four-wheel-drive vehicles – many towing quads and dirt bikes – during the summer.

What a difference a year makes! Thanks to grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The State of New Jersey Green Acres Program, the little pond in the 4,000-acre preserve is now restored.

To stop ORV damage, fallen trees were

placed across sand roads and paths to block access, and more than 1,000 native trees and shrubs were planted around the pond and adjacent wetlands. The pond’s waters once again run clear as they flow into the Middle Branch of the Forked River, a major tributary of the Barnegat Bay.

In all, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Green Acres grants allowed the blockage of ORV access to 21 miles of sand roads and trails, protecting more than a mile of stream corridor, 58 acres of sensitive upland habitat and 41 acres of wetland and stream habitat.

The result is better habitat for rare and endangered species that live in the Pine Barrens.

“Our people on the ground found some new rare plant species that we didn’t know were there, and we found some new habitat for pine snakes,” said Tim. Northern Pine Snakes are a state-endangered species.

The planting project at the Ashmun Preserve was organized by our partner group, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and completed with help from staff members and xxx volunteers. “Everybody did a really fantastic job and we’re grateful for their help,” said Tim.

He noted that vigilance will be needed

this summer to keep the Ashmun Preserve free from determined ORV riders, who in the past have torn down gates and barriers. A local task force to stop illegal ORV riders has been established, consisting of the Lacey Township Police Department, Ocean Township Police Department, Ocean County Sheriff’s Department, NJ State Police and conservation officers from the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife.

In addition, a group of volunteer pilots fly over the preserve to look for illegal activity and report it to local authorities.

The Ashmun Preserve contains the headwaters of three streams – the North, Middle and South branches of the Forked River. All flow into Barnegat Bay, a beloved Jersey Shore destination for fishing, swimming, crabbing and boating that is dependent on clean water from its tributaries.

For more information about the Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve, go to <https://www.njconservation.org/preserve/candace-mckee-ashmun-preserve/>



NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy to keynote Rally

Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New Jersey, will be the keynote speaker at the 23rd annual New Jersey Land Conservation Conference—better known as the “Rally” — on April 12.

Mrs. Murphy is a charter member of former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Action Fund and will speak on the need for a clean, sustainable future for all, one of the governor’s top policy initiatives.

“Climate change is real and it is happening now. We must redouble our efforts to tackle our climate crisis in a way that will benefit not just our environment, but every New Jerseyan,” the First Lady said in an statement on her website.

Governor Murphy’s commitment to a clean and sustainable economy includes reentry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, joining the U.S. Climate Alliance, protecting the Jersey Shore from offshore drilling and welcoming offshore wind energy development, and setting a goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050.

“Our state can only move forward by creating a clean and sustainable economy

that provides thousands of jobs with a resilient infrastructure,” Tammy added. “We are rejecting the false rhetoric that we can either have clean air and water, or jobs, but not both. New Jersey’s future rests in our ability to both do good and do well. We owe it to not only ourselves, but to the next generation as well.”

The Rally is an educational and networking conference about preserving open space and farmland in New Jersey, and this year’s theme is “Conservation Innovations in a Changing World.” The all-day event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick.

The Rally offers workshops on conservation-related topics such as **mitigating**

the impacts of climate change, protecting habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife, preserving farmland, creating urban parks, building trails on public open space, and careers in conservation.

The conference is geared toward professionals and volunteers in New Jersey’s land conservation community, as well as students. However, all those interested in learning about land conservation are welcome.

Lead Rally sponsors include the Victoria Foundation, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Duke Farms and the Merrill G. and Erita E. Hastings Foundation.

For more information, a schedule of workshops, and online registration, go to www.njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm or google NJ Land Rally!

SOME OF THE **36**
INCREDIBLE PROGRAMS
BEING OFFERED INCLUDE:

- Land Conservation & Environmental Advocacy
- Membership Engagement Through Mindful Programming
- Reading Rain Gardens
- Using Science & Engaging The Community
- Wildlife & Prescribed Fire in New Jersey
- Nonprofit Storytelling A-Z
- Creating Pollinator Habitat Along New Jersey Roadways
- Using Drones in Monitoring and Evaluating Restoration Projects
- Upcycling Obsolete Infrastructure to Create New Parks & Trails

2019 GAINING GROUND

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved over 369.5 acres from October 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. These lands include family farms, grasslands for grazing horses and cattle, and natural areas that safeguard clean drinking water, protect wildlife habitat and offer scenic beauty and outdoor recreation.

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

11 Projects (Oct 1, 2018 - Jan 31, 2019)

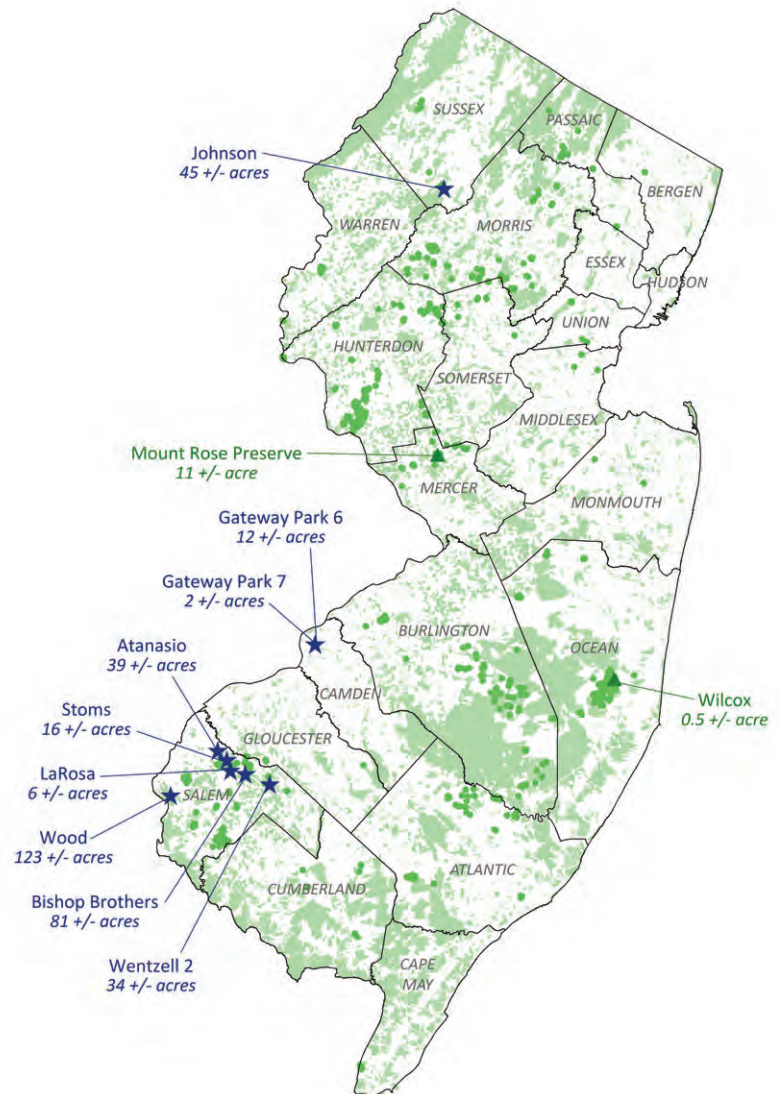
▲ NJ Conservation Owned: 11.5 acres
(Fee or Easement)

★ Preserved in Partnership: 358 acres

TOTAL: 369.50 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

Become a Member Today!



Judge allows PennEast to condemn land, but pipeline fight continues

When open space and farmland are preserved using taxpayer dollars, they're considered protected forever.

But a U.S. District Court ruling, if allowed to stand, would mark the first time in New Jersey history that preserved open space has been condemned.

U.S. District Court Judge Brian Martinotti ruled in December that the PennEast pipeline company can use eminent domain to gain access to land in Hunterdon and Mercer counties for a natural gas pipeline. The ruling allows PennEast to conduct surveys and seize rights-of-way on private and public properties, including nearly 50 properties preserved by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the State of New Jersey, counties, municipalities and other non-profits.

The PennEast pipeline would carry gas 118 miles, from the fracking fields of north-eastern Pennsylvania into Hunterdon and Mercer Counties. The proposed route would impact thousands of acres of preserved open space and farmland, scores of pristine streams, dozens of historic districts, and habitat for endangered and threatened species.

"PennEast is seizing properties and public open spaces for a project that is not

approved, not needed, and should never be built," said Tom Gilbert, campaign director for New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "This project faces tremendous opposition that is determined to protect our land, water and communities by ensuring that they never put a shovel in our ground."

Gilbert pointed out that experts have found no market need for the proposed pipeline to meet either current or projected gas demands in New Jersey. The project is being pursued for no other reason than corporate gain, he said.

After the judge's decision was handed down, elected officials representing affected areas of New Jersey joined conservation leaders and local landowners in opposing the PennEast project.

"We've reached this point – a business abusing eminent domain — because the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) falls far short of what we need when it comes to regulating energy projects," said U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman. "FERC fails to register the voices of those impacted by these

First time preserved open space in NJ has been condemned



projects, FERC fails to consider community need, and FERC fails to account for environmental preservation."

Watson Coleman said she will continue to push for passage of the "SAFER Pipelines Act," which she described as a way to repair the broken system and protect landowners from having their private property seized to boost corporate profits.

"While I am highly disappointed in the court's decision, I call on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which has the power and obligation to hold



"The PennEast pipeline threatens waterways, farmland, open space, and private land in one of the most beautiful natural areas of New Jersey, with no clear demonstration of economic need for our state."

**— CONGRESSMAN
TOM MALINOWSKI**



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PennEast to the strictest environmental standards, to protect our precious natural resources and irreplaceable drinking water from this damaging fossil fuel project,” said New Jersey Senator Shirley K. Turner.

“Our taxpayers have prioritized the preservation of open space and invested billions of dollars to protect our natural resources,” Turner added. “Not to mention our homeowners who have worked hard and sacrificed to purchase their homes where they can enjoy our state’s natural assets.”

“The PennEast pipeline threatens waterways, farmland, open space, and private land in one of the most beautiful natural areas of New Jersey, with no clear demonstration of economic need for our state,” said Congressman Tom Malinowski. “I strongly oppose its construction, and as a member of Congress I will support tightening the rules that allow such pipelines to be approved in the first place.”

“There is still hope to stop PennEast. Homeowners: please do not give up. We have a great ally in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,” said state Senator Kip Bateman. “We will continue to fight against any pipeline company that threatens to come here and trample your rights to your land, and the rights we all have to safe and clean drinking water.”

GOOD NEWS:

Land Preservation Funding Goes Up!

Land preservation throughout the Garden State will get an infusion of new state funding this year, helping nonprofits like New Jersey Conservation Foundation preserve more open space and farmland.

Overall, state funding for land preservation will increase 50 percent this year – to about \$155 million – thanks to a ballot measure passed overwhelmingly by New Jersey voters in 2014.

The ballot measure allowed a portion of the state’s corporate business tax revenue to fund open space, farmland, historic and Blue Acres preservation projects. As of this year, six percent of the corporate business tax will now go toward land preservation, increased as expected from the original four percent.

Funding for nonprofit land preservation organizations will get a boost under the state Legislature’s new allocation formula, as will the “Blue Acres” program for preserving flood-prone properties and programs for preserving historic properties.

Preserved lands safeguard clean water and air, protect wildlife habitat, grow fresh, nutritious food, soak up flood waters, provide outdoor recreation and improve the public’s physical and mental health.

*thank
you!*

New Members

(from October 1, 2018 through
through December 31, 2018)

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\$500 and Above Members

(from October 1, 2018
through December 31, 2018)

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Lloyd and Sally Davis
Michael Dawson and
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of New Jersey
Dr. Rosina B. and Mr. Richard Dixon
Susan Dorward
Ms. Katherine V. Dresdner, Esq.
John and Anne Duffy
Madelyn and Dennis Dunn
Mr. and Mrs. Horst Duseberg
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Landis and Peter Eaton
Ms. Jeanne R. Eisele
Energy Foundation
Ernest Christian Klipstein Foundation
Estate of Ruth S. Gleason
Virginia Falconer
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Mr. Sven Helmer
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Lee and John Yeash
Beth Yingling

Memorials

(from October 1, 2018
through December 31, 2018)

Richardson Buist
Jean Buist Earle

Gladys and Howard Eberhard
David Volk

Grace and Jim Hand
Anne Forbes

Helmut & Hildegard Hanssler
Dr. Ingeborg D. Bossert

David Ireland
Jane Johnston

Mr C. Lawrence Keller
Linny and Merrick G. Andlinger

James Kramer
Mr. James Richart

John Martinelli
Deborah Troiani

Mariella Mulholland
Jane Johnston

Mabel and Eustace
Maryann Roper

Jeanne Buchwalder O'Leary
Annette Arnold

James Roberts
Sharon Sein

Edmund Stiles
Holly Muller

Esther Yanai
Mr. H. Steve Yanai

Tributes

(from October 1, 2018
through December 31, 2018)

Candace Ashmun
Renee Resky

Michele Byers
Katherine Buttolph

George and Sally Easter
Austin Wakefield

Jeanne Eisele
Doris F. Forshner

Clem Fiori
Daniel and Margery Fiori
Nicholas and Kristin Fiori

William Flemer and Louise Hutner
Louise Gross

Jessie Goehner
Janet Goehner-Jacobs

Mrs. Jean Hocker
Carolyn Barnes Coughlin

Shayna Jagger
Sean Runnette

Cynthia Kellogg
Joseph and Evelyn Prather

William Matulewicz
Brian Long

Nick and Polly
Laura Lochetta

Robert and Barbara Wolfe
William and Elizabeth Wolfe
Susan W. Lauffer and
Donald E. Lauffer

Clients of Ronald Berlin Architect, PC:
Virginia Dwan
James Baxter
Kian Esteghamat and Amy Craft
Constance Fong
Colleen Goggins
Paul and Lisa Kapp
Hartmut and Kathleen Kraft
Sung and Caroline Lee
Mollie Marcoux and Andrew Samaan
Achilles and Jennifer Paparsenos
Claire Roberts
Shahzad Shahriarian and Homa Dastani
Ronald Berlin

Staff

Michele S. Byers, Executive Director

Erica Arles, Administrative Assistant, Land Acquisition & Stewardship

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Mark Barrick, Information Technology/Office Manager

Tim Brill, Central Jersey Project Manager

Beth Davisson, Project Manager, Black River Greenway

Justin Dennis, Urban Parks Manager

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

Amy Hansen, Policy Analyst

Maria Hauser, Personnel Manager/Executive Assistant

Steven Jack, Associate Land Steward

Russell Juelg, Senior Land Steward

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Timothy Morris, Director of Stewardship

Marie Newell, Project Coordinator, Acquisition

Tanya Nolte, GIS Manager

Sandy Stuart Perry, Staff Writer

Francis Rapa, Regional Manager, Delaware Bay Watershed

Julia Raskin, Camden Parks & Greenway Outreach Manager

Karen Richards, CPA, Director of Finance & Administration

Heidi Marie Roldan, Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager

Greg Romano, Assistant Director & Director of Statewide Land Acquisition

Susan Schmidt, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Bill Scullion, Land Steward, South Jersey

Connor Stone, Development & Communications Coordinator

Laura Szwak, Director of Outreach & Education

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REMEMBERING Edward Babbott our longest-serving Trustee



**New Jersey Conservation Foundation's longest-serving trustee,
EDWARD F. BABBOTT,
was a passionate environmentalist and educator. He strongly believed in the power of nature
to inspire young people to love and appreciate plants, animals, air, water and natural lands.**

Ed passed away on January 15 at the age of 96, but left a deep legacy of learning and inspiration.

In 1992, in honor of Ed's 70th birthday, his family established the Babbott Education Fund at New Jersey Conservation. This fund is dedicated to helping young people learn about the environment and land conservation through internships and education programs.

Thanks to the Babbott Fund, students from across New Jersey are gaining hands-on experience in everything from working with endangered species on preserved lands to meeting with lawmakers in Trenton on environmental legislation.

"Ed Babbott left a conservation legacy for future conservation leaders," said Laura Szwak, who runs the Babbott Fund. "One of the persistent challenges in land conservation is attracting people to the field and training them to be tomorrow's leaders. There are few college programs that train students in the concepts and process of land acquisition, land stewardship and conservation advocacy."

Ed was born in Brooklyn in 1922 and taught English before finding his calling as a guidance counselor. He served as director

of guidance at Summit and Chatham high schools, and authored numerous articles, essays and handbooks on college and vocational options for high school students. He most recently lived in Basking Ridge.

In the 1960s, Ed joined the grassroots effort to save the Great Swamp in Morris and Somerset counties and prevent its conversion to an international "jetport." The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was born from those early efforts.

The Great Swamp Committee, one of the groups spearheading the fight against the jetport, eventually became New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Ed joined its board of trustees in 1968 and served on and off – mostly on – for 44 years before stepping down in 2012.

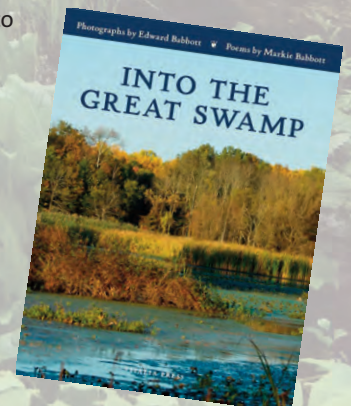
Ed will be remembered for his dedication to conservation, extreme friendliness, generosity, natural curiosity about people and nature, and willingness to mentor others.

"I always enjoyed his wisdom and advice, as well as his smile and good humor at board meetings," recalled former New Jersey Conservation president Keith Reed. "He was truly a great friend and unheralded champion in the world of NJ conservation."

David Moore, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's executive director from 1969-99, described Ed as one of his most influential mentors: "Ed was likely the most dedicated New Jersey Conservation Foundation trustee ever. We are sure going to miss him."

"I loved working with Ed over the past 35 years. He was a great board member, mentor and friend, and the entire New Jersey Conservation Foundation staff will miss him," said Michele S. Byers, executive director.

Ed's love for the Great Swamp continued throughout his life. At age 93, Ed and his daughter, Margaret "Markie" Babbott, co-authored "Into the Great Swamp," a book of photography and poetry highlighting the beauty, wildlife and mysteries of the swamp.



Welcome New Trustee

JENNIFER BRYSON

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes Jennifer Bryson of Hillsborough Township to our Board of Trustees.



Jennifer is an environmental engineer, planner and consultant specializing in water resources, water and wastewater treatment, solid waste management and hazardous waste site remediation. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Penn State University and a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle.

An active farmer and equestrian, Jennifer has been involved for more than 20 years in protecting the Sourland Mountain region of central New Jersey.

She was a trustee of the Sourland Conservancy, a nonprofit whose mission is to protect, promote and preserve the unique character of the Sourland Mountain region. She is also founder of the Sourland Alliance, project manager of Sourland Mountains Smart Growth Planning and management, creator of the Sourlands Tour and gives numerous lectures to governing officials, schools and the public.

Jennifer is also an active volunteer and supporter of ISLES, the Arts Council of Princeton, Centurion, the Friends of Hillsborough Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. She formerly served as a trustee of the Waldorf School of Princeton and coordinator for the Amwell Valley Pony Club.

Welcome New Staff

CONNOR STONE

Our newest full-time staff member, Connor Stone of Hackettstown, New Jersey isn't really new!

Connor began as an intern in September 2017 and one year later became special projects manager, working on Somerset County's open space preservation plan, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's strategic plan, and various stewardship projects. Last fall, he became Development and Communications Coordinator.

In his new position, Connor is responsible for maintaining donor databases, generating and proofreading thank you letters, and compiling organizational history. He holds bachelor degrees in philosophy, and environmental policy and economics from Moravian College, and a master's degree in biobehavioral health from Penn State University. In his free time, Connor enjoys hiking, watching Jeopardy, and spending time with his cats.



Meet Don Palmer Intern

MATTHEW MCINERNEY

For much of my youth, I spent summers immersed in nature at Camp Keewaydin in Vermont. These summers – spent hiking, paddling and learning ecology – instilled in me a passion for the outdoors and a deep respect for the natural environment. Since then, hiking, paddling, trail running, birding and botany have continued to shape my belief in the value of conservation and stewardship of natural lands.

I was happy to accept the Don Palmer Internship last fall, knowing the scope of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's impact and the opportunities it would offer. I was looking for new experiences in land conservation, having previously worked in stewardship and management of a native plant nursery at D&R Greenway Land Trust.

The internship is meeting that expectation in a variety of ways.

First, I've been helping plan and organize the 23rd Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally. One of my jobs was to gather experts to speak on important topics in conservation, including coastal resilience, diversity and inclusion, and drone applications in stewardship. It has also been a rewarding challenge to manage the logistics of a statewide conference.

Building on my stewardship experience, I have worked on projects at some remarkable New Jersey Conservation preserves. One especially gratifying project involved planting dozens of endangered sickle-leaved golden asters at Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens. The plants were rescued from a construction site and will make for an impressive sight next summer.

The opportunity that most drew me to the internship was the chance to learn more about advocacy and policy-making. One highlight was joining the policy team at legislative hearings at the State House in Trenton, where we advocated for environmental and conservation legislation. I am delighted to have two policy-themed workshops at the Rally, led by New Jersey Conservation's policy experts.

Perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of the internship has been the relationships I have formed within the conservation community. Working with the New Jersey Conservation staff has been an absolute pleasure and I look forward to the many opportunities that lie ahead!

The Morris Park Alliance awards Don Palmer Memorial Internships every year to nonprofits or government agencies working on conservation, open space and natural resource projects. Langdon "Don" Palmer served as president of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Board of Trustees from 1998-2000. The Palmer Internship helps New Jersey Conservation prepare tomorrow's conservation leaders.



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