

New Jersey Conservation

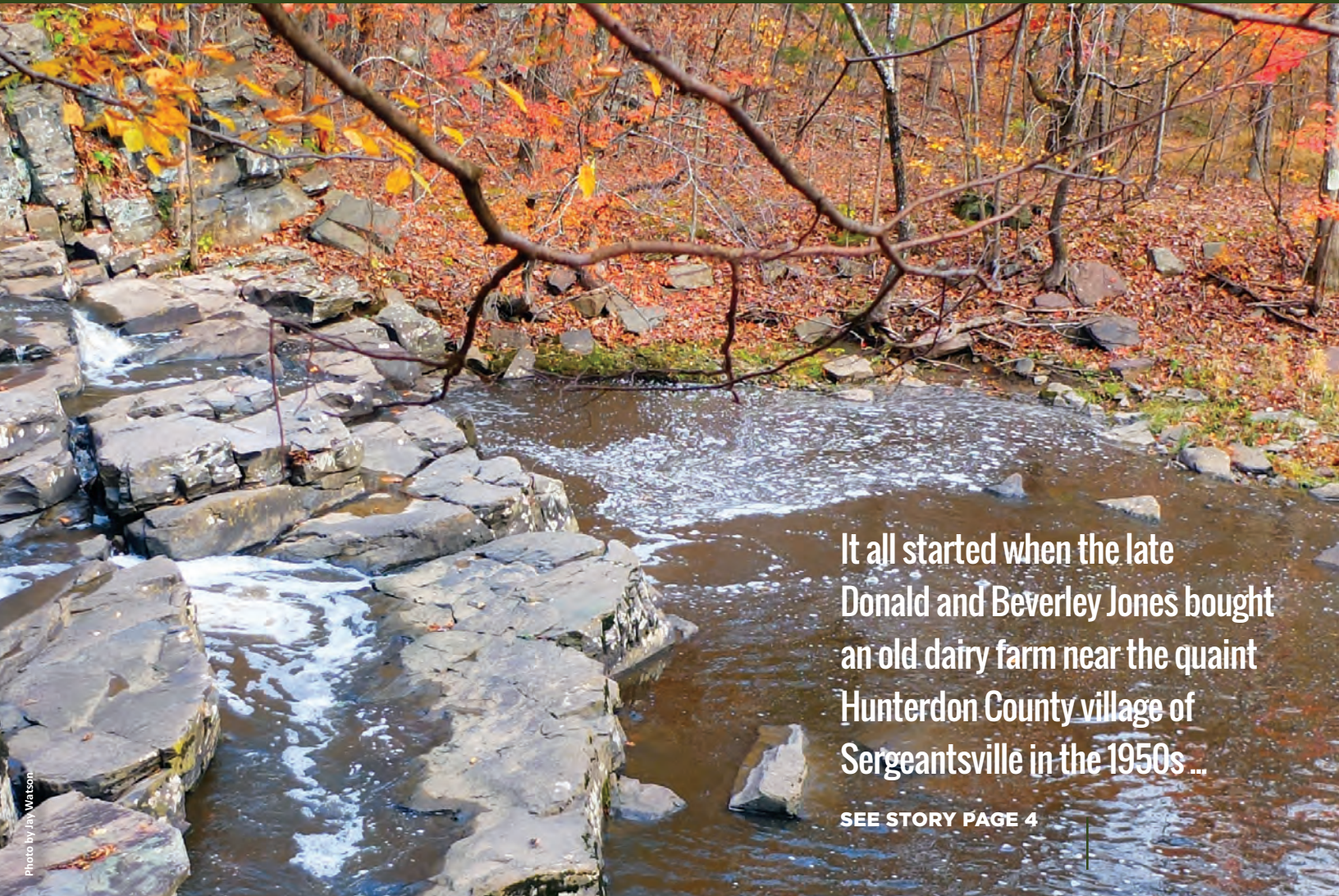


Photo by Jay Watson

It all started when the late Donald and Beverley Jones bought an old dairy farm near the quaint Hunterdon County village of Sergeantsville in the 1950s ...

SEE STORY PAGE 4

8

INVASIVE MUSSELS ERADICATED

A threat to the Delaware River was averted with the eradication of Chinese pond mussels at a preserve in Hunterdon County.

11

PHILANTHROPIST'S BELOVED WOODS PRESERVED

A small but important property in Bergen County is preserved, thanks to the late David Bolger.

12

FIVE FORMER GOVERNORS HONORED

Governors Florio, Whitman, Kean, McGreevey and Byrne were among many supporters honored at the kickoff to our 60th anniversary celebration.



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ON THE COVER

Jay Watson, Senior Director of Statewide Land Protection & Community Relations, captured the beauty of the rocky Wickecheoke Creek Falls in Hunterdon County as turning leaves put on a blazing show of autumn color.



From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

Who do you know who has made an enormously visible improvement in their community's quality of life? And if not for him or her, the community would not have the same beauty, character and charm?

The late Donald and Beverley Jones were two such people. When bold action was needed to save three historic landmarks in western Hunterdon County – the Prallsville Mills, the Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge and the Locktown Stone Church – they stepped up. And as a former New Jersey Conservation Foundation president, Donald helped establish a partnership that has preserved thousands of acres along the Wickecheoke Creek.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in November, over 125 people gathered at the Prallsville Mills to honor Donald and Beverley's lasting legacy. It was the 25th anniversary of the Donald and Beverley Jones Memorial Hike, a time to remember that if not for them, the community would be a far different place today. Learn more about Donald and Beverley, and the Wickecheoke Creek Greenway, in the story that begins on page 4.

Not surprisingly, Donald and Beverley were also among the New Jersey Conservation Foundation heroes honored a few weeks earlier as we kicked off our 60th anniversary celebration. They were in good company.

We honored over three dozen individuals who made a difference to New Jersey's environment and to New Jersey Conservation Foundation, including former Governors James Florio, Christine Todd Whitman, Thomas Kean, James McGreevey and Brendan Byrne. Read about them on page 12.

We've been very fortunate to have these outstanding leaders to guide us over the years.

We're also extremely fortunate to have thousands of everyday heroes – people like YOU – who have made our work possible over six decades. With your support, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has preserved over 125,000 acres of open space and farmland, and helped shape public policy at all levels of government.

This holiday season, I would like to thank you for your steadfast support and generosity. On behalf of the trustees and staff of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

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.



COURT REJECTS ATTEMPT TO CONDEMN LAND FOR GAS PIPELINE



Hikers on the 2018 Donald and Beverley Jones Memorial Hike in Hunterdon County followed the route of the proposed PennEast pipeline, passing a sign protesting the attempt to condemn public and private lands.

The land conservation community was stunned five years ago when the PennEast pipeline company announced plans to build a gas pipeline from Luzerne County, Pa. across the Delaware River to New Jersey, cutting through thousands of acres of preserved open space and farmland in Hunterdon and Mercer counties.

Over objections from landowners – including New Jersey Conservation Foundation - PennEast obtained conditional approval in January 2018 from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

PennEast immediately sought to use the federal government's eminent domain power to condemn properties along the route in New Jersey under the U.S. Natural Gas Act. We and other landowners challenged this, but permission was granted by a federal court in December 2018 and quickly appealed by the New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal.

This fall, the Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned the lower court's decision, finding for New Jersey that PennEast cannot legally condemn state-preserved lands.

The court found that the state's "sovereign immunity" under the Eleventh Amendment protects it from federal lawsuits – like condemnations – brought by private companies. The court rejected PennEast's

claim that it stands in the shoes of the federal government with the authority to condemn state lands.

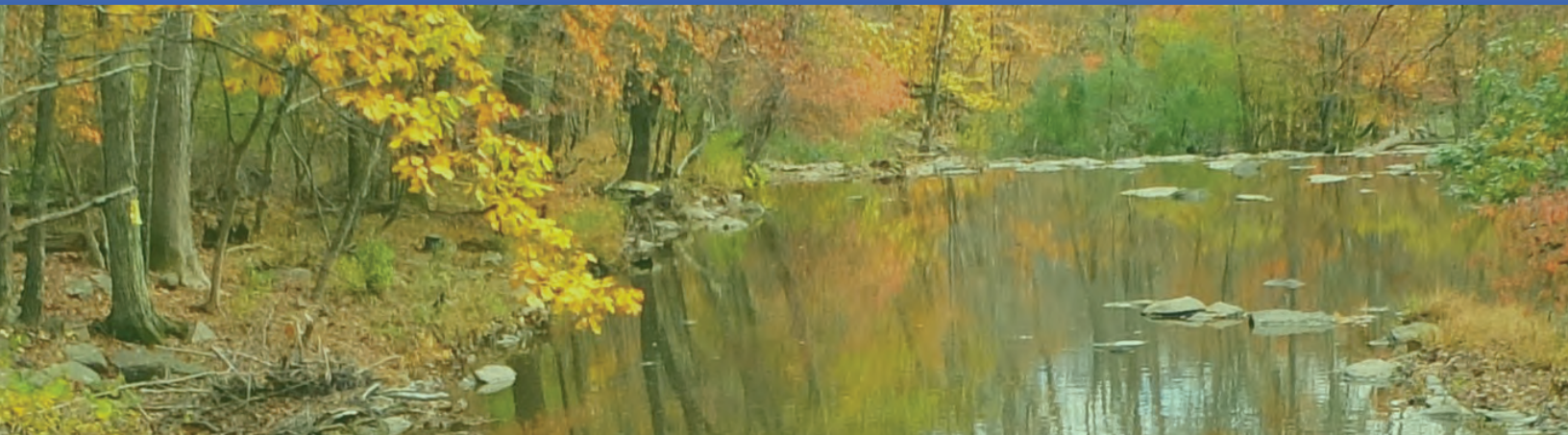
"This decision is a huge win for New Jersey taxpayers and everyone who stood up to PennEast by working hard to protect thousands of acres of preserved open space and farmland," said Tom Gilbert, campaign director at New Jersey Conservation Foundation and ReThink Energy NJ.

While the decision reduces the chance that the pipeline will be built, the company said it plans to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for review.

Forty-two of the 131 properties targeted for condemnation are state-preserved farmland and open space. Many were preserved in partnership with counties, municipalities and private land trusts. They include places like the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve, the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain, the Milford Bluffs, and some of the state's first preserved farms in Hunterdon County's scenic Rosemont Valley.

In the five years since the PennEast project was announced, countless studies have shown that the pipeline is not needed and would have severe impacts to water, land and communities. New Jersey has more than enough pipeline capacity even during periods of peak demand, and the project has no proven public benefit.

Preserving the Wickecheoke C



GREEN SERGEANT'S COVERED BRIDGE

The state's last historic covered bridge was rebuilt using original materials



PRALLSVILLE MILLS

Now a restored historic site and arts center, part of Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

ALTHOUGH THE LANDMARKS ARE MILES APART, THEY ARE CONNECTED BY A COMMON THREAD:



reek Greenway:

THE LEGACY OF DONALD AND BEVERLEY JONES



It all started when the late Donald and Beverley Jones bought an old dairy farm near the quaint Hunterdon County village of Sergeantsville in the 1950s and moved into the 200-year-old stone farmhouse. They quickly grew to love their community's unique rural and historic character. So when three beloved local landmarks – the **Prallsville Mills**, the **Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge** and the **Locktown Stone Church** – were threatened by development, Donald and Beverley stepped in to save them from the wrecking ball.



LOCKTOWN STONE CHURCH

Now a cultural arts center and listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places

THE WICKECHEOKE CREEK.





Photo by Mark Barrick

The preserved Fisher farm in Delaware Township, one of the most beautiful in the Wickecheoke Creek region, is directly on the route of the proposed PennEast pipeline. A recent court decision makes it less likely that this property and others will be condemned for the pipeline.

The Jones family and other concerned citizens banded together when the dilapidated 1872 Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge – the state's last working covered bridge – was about to be replaced with a modern bridge in 1960. They convinced officials to rebuild it using original materials.

When the Prallsville Mills were in danger of being sold to developers for a strip mall, Donald and Beverley purchased them and held them for future state ownership. They're now a restored historic site and arts center, part of Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park.

And when the 1819 Locktown Stone Church was in jeopardy of becoming a private residence, they bought it and held it until the township could acquire it. Now a cultural and arts center, the church is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Although the three landmarks are miles apart, they're connected by a common thread: the Wickecheoke Creek. This scenic Delaware River tributary tumbles for about a dozen miles through a rolling countryside of farms and forests before pouring into the D & R Canal, a drinking water source for over a million New Jersey residents.

The preservation of the covered bridge, mills and church led to a brilliant idea: Why not create a greenway – a corridor of protected

land – by preserving open space, farmland and historic sites along the Wickecheoke? The greenway would safeguard the creek's clean water, protect wildlife habitat, preserve the scenic beauty and historic landscape, and provide an excellent place for hiking and enjoying nature.

Thanks to the efforts of Donald Jones, who served as New Jersey Conservation Foundation's president from 1980 to 1983, the vision of a greenway along the Wickecheoke Creek became a reality. Efforts to preserve land in the Wickecheoke region were launched in 1984.

Working with partners like Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NJ Water Supply Authority, over 3,800 acres of forests, meadows, farms and historic properties have been preserved in the Wickecheoke Creek Greenway since 1984.

"To me, the Wickecheoke Creek is where scenic beauty and historic landscapes intersect with protecting clean water," said Jay Watson, director of statewide land protection and community relations.

Jones Hike Turns 25

After Donald Jones passed away in 1994, his family and friends established the Donald

Jones Memorial Hike, held on a Sunday afternoon each November. When Beverley passed away in 2013, the annual event was renamed the Donald and Beverley Jones Memorial Hike.

This year, the 25th annual hike was celebrated with a walk near the Locktown Stone Church, which is celebrating its own 200th anniversary. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of efforts to preserve land along the Wickecheoke.

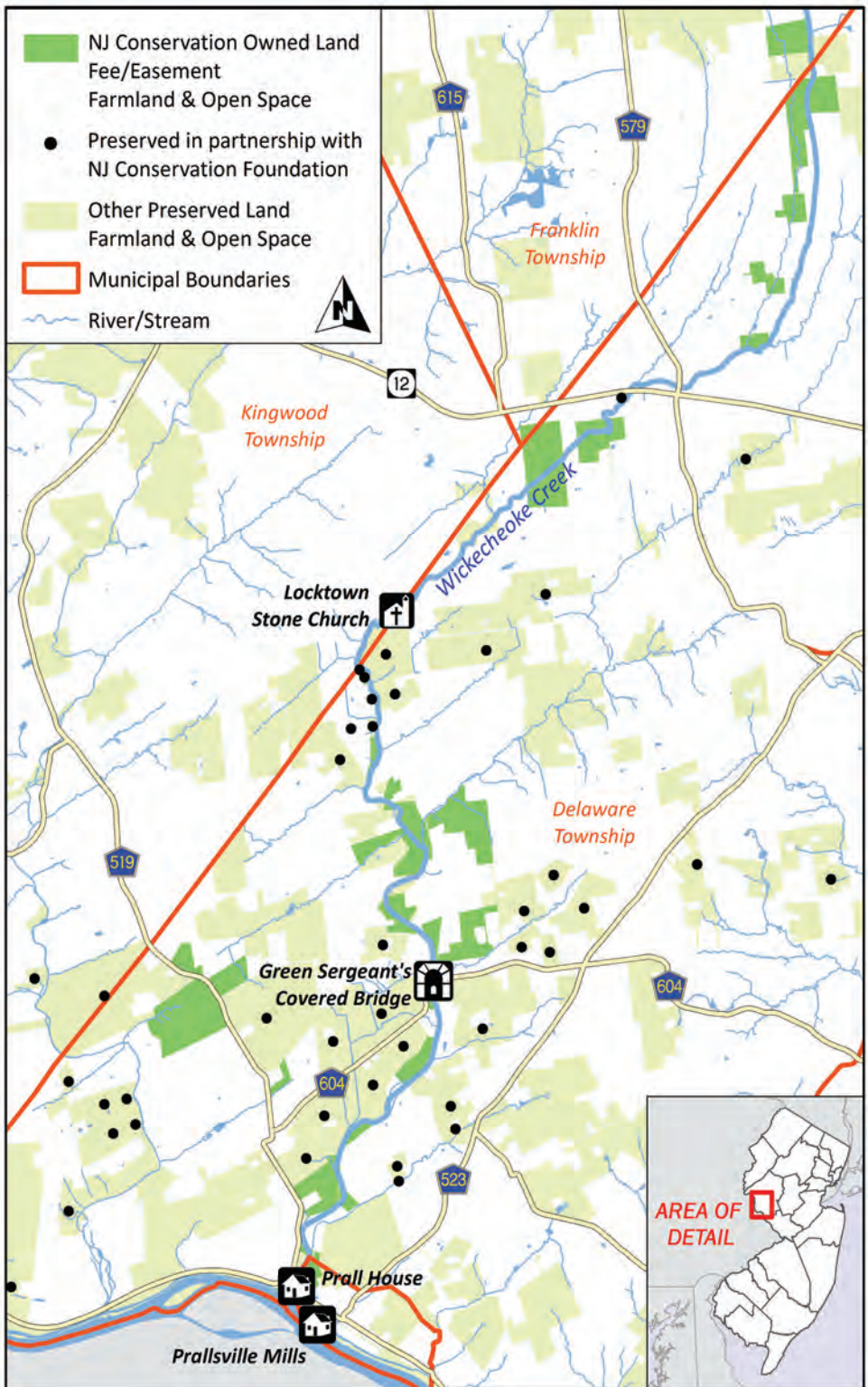
Through our land preservation work – and dozens of landowners willing to sell, donate or grant easements on their properties – the Wickecheoke Creek Greenway has expanded over the years like a patchwork quilt, with new pieces added every year. The most recent addition was the 18-acre Hollenback property, acquired in October.

Today, it is possible to walk from the Prallsville Mill to the Locktown Stone Church almost exclusively on and along preserved lands. Many of these lands are crossed by – what else? – the Donald and Beverley Jones Footpath.

The footpath came into being after New Jersey Conservation led a group of conservationists – including Donald and Beverley – to England in 1992 to learn about the extensive network of footpaths that connect countryside villages and towns. They came back inspired by



The late Donald Jones, bottom left, meets in 1981 with state Senator Raymond Zane and Gov. Brendan Byrne to discuss farmland preservation. Top photo, hikers enjoying the Donald and Beverley Jones Memorial Hike.



Britain's "Right to Roam" custom of allowing foot passage over the countryside, with ideas on how to adapt it to western Hunterdon County.

"When we worked to create a footpath along the Wickecheoke, it was only fitting to name it after the couple who exemplified the conservation ethic in the region," said Michele Byers, executive director. "The Wickecheoke Creek area is a special place, and it wouldn't be that way if not for the dedication and generosity of Donald and Beverley Jones."

Threats to the Land

But even preserved land can still be threatened. For the past five years, we've been working hard to stop the proposed PennEast gas pipeline, which would cross thousands of acres in the Wickecheoke Creek region, threatening its water quality, wildlife and picturesque beauty.

Recently, good news came when a federal appeals court ruled that PennEast doesn't have the authority to condemn lands preserved by the State of New Jersey, including those preserved in partnership with us. (Please see related story on page 3.)

Threats can also come in the form of invasive species. This past summer, we eradicated a population of invasive Chinese pond mussels in the headwaters of the Wickecheoke. (See related story on next page.)

We will continue to work to preserve land in the Wickecheoke Creek Greenway - and fight to keep it protected. Please come out and enjoy the Wickecheoke Creek!

For more information and trail maps, go to

<https://www.njconservation.org/preserve/wickecheoke-creek-preserve/>



CELEBRATING NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

New Jersey Congressman Jeff Van Drew, fourth from left, was joined by mayors and representatives of environmental groups at the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge on National Public Lands Day, Sept. 28. Van Drew pledged his support for full, permanent funding for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Those attending included Fred Akers of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Sophia Hull of Environment New Jersey, Amy Hansen of New Jersey Conservation Foundation (pictured chatting with the congressman), Drew Tompkins of the New Jersey Audubon Society, Bob Allen of the New Jersey Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and Kimberly Witt of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Invasive mussels eradicated from Hunterdon County ponds

Many years ago, tiny "hitchhikers" went unnoticed in a tank of live carp shipped from China to a New Jersey fish farm.

The hitchhikers were the larvae of Chinese pond mussels (*Sinanodonta woodiana*). These highly invasive mussels had spread across Europe, but hadn't made their way to the U.S. until then.

Unseen, the larvae established themselves in the muddy bottoms of ponds at the Hunterdon County fish farm, which supplied carp to markets in New York City.

In 2007, the retiring fish farm owners sold their Raritan Township farm to New Jersey Conservation Foundation for a nature preserve. Land stewards for New Jersey Conservation later discovered that the ponds contained bighead carp, an invasive species that could wreak havoc in natural systems if allowed to escape.

But the discoveries didn't stop there. Biologists noticed something else in the mud: mature Chinese pond mussels, some as big as plates. "This was the first population discovered in North America, and as far as we know, the only one," said Tim Morris, stewardship director for New Jersey Conservation. "We knew we had to keep them from spreading."

Chinese pond mussels, he noted, "have taken over some rivers in Eastern Europe, where they outcompete native species. Poland has been very affected by them."

Thanks to work funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this summer and fall, the Chinese pond mussel population in Hunterdon County is eradicated, eliminating the danger of the species spreading to local waterways and, ultimately, the Delaware River.

"Under certain conditions, this invasive

species could have spread across the eastern U.S., with New Jersey at the epicenter," said Eric Schrading, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New Jersey field office supervisor. "Early detection and eradication of the Chinese pond mussel likely saved us a tremendous amount of resources and damage to our rivers. It's a significant success in invasive species management."

The nine ponds at the former fish farm in Raritan Township were treated from July through September with a copper-based algicide known as Earth Tec QZ, which is approved for killing invasive mussels.

"We searched extensively after the treatments and found shells but no live mussels," said Melanie Mason, a land steward for New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "We feel pretty confident that they're gone, but we will follow up by doing environmental DNA testing of the water to make sure."

Project partners include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Solitude Lake Management, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space's New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team, Earth Science Labs, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Raritan Headwaters Association.

The former fish farm is in the headwaters of the Wickecheoke Creek, a Delaware River tributary. Members of the Invasive Species Strike Team inventoried downstream areas of the Wickecheoke Creek three years ago and, fortunately, found no presence of Chinese pond mussels.

2019 GAINING GROUND

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved 590 acres from June 1, 2019 through October 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.

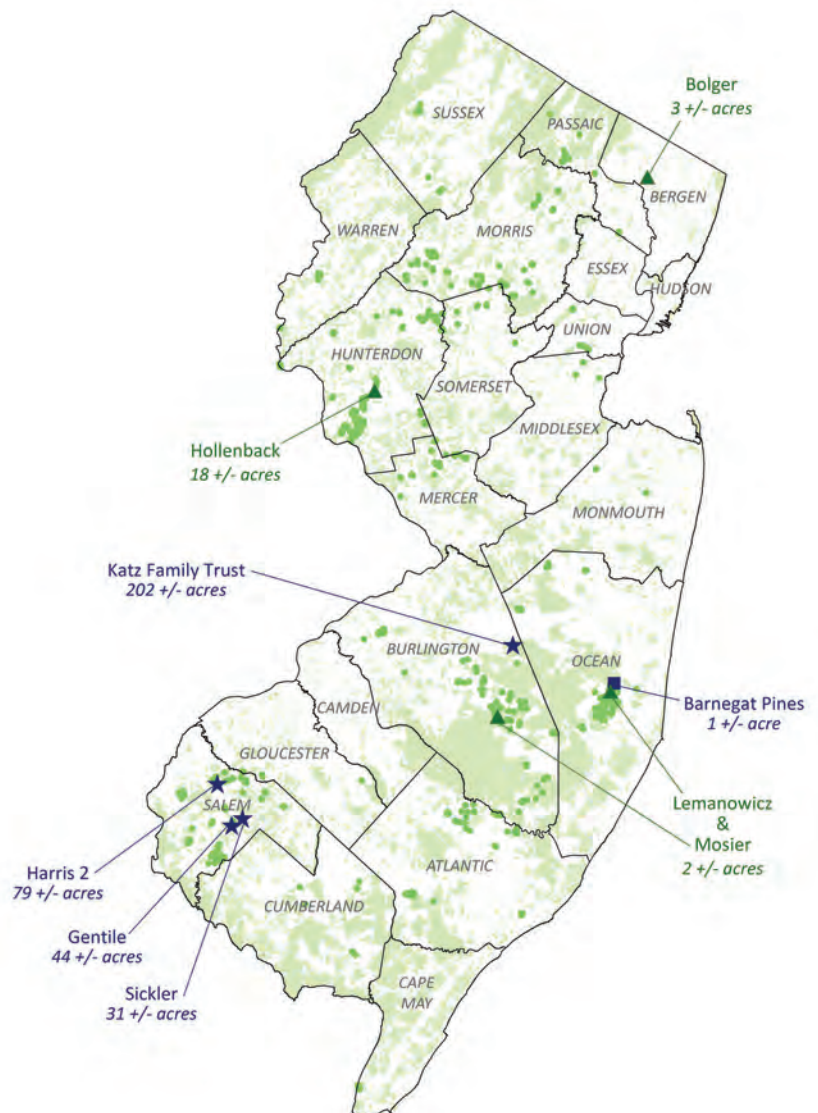
THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE THESE LANDS!

10 Projects

(June - October 2019)

▲ NJ Conservation Owned: (Fee or Easement)	23 acres
★ Preserved in Partnership:	356 acres
■ NJ Conservation Land Transfers to Other Entities:	1 acre
Other Assisted Projects:	210 acres
TOTAL:	590 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!



18 acres added to preserved greenway in Hunterdon

Photo by Maria Newell

A GREENWAY OF PRESERVED OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND ALONG THE PICTURESQUE WICKECHEOKE CREEK IN HUNTERDON COUNTY JUST GOT BIGGER.

In October, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners preserved 18 acres of woodlands and farm fields off of Rake Road in Raritan Township, at the headwaters of the Wickecheoke Creek.

The land was purchased from Ellen and Mark Hollenback, using funds from the state Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County, Raritan Township and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

"It pleases me to know that the land is being preserved for all time," said Ellen Hollenback, who enjoys walking on the property. "My husband and I are both environmentalists, and this just seemed like the right thing to do."

Permanently preserving the land helps protect water quality and wildlife habitat. Ellen Hollenback said she and her husband have spotted a wide variety of wildlife on the property, including bobcats, foxes, coyotes, mink, fishers and possums.

The newly-preserved property is open to the public for passive recreation, including hiking and nature observation on existing trails. It provides one more link in the long chain of preserved lands up and down the Wickecheoke.

Thank you to our partners for making this possible!



Philanthropist David Bolger's beloved woods preserved

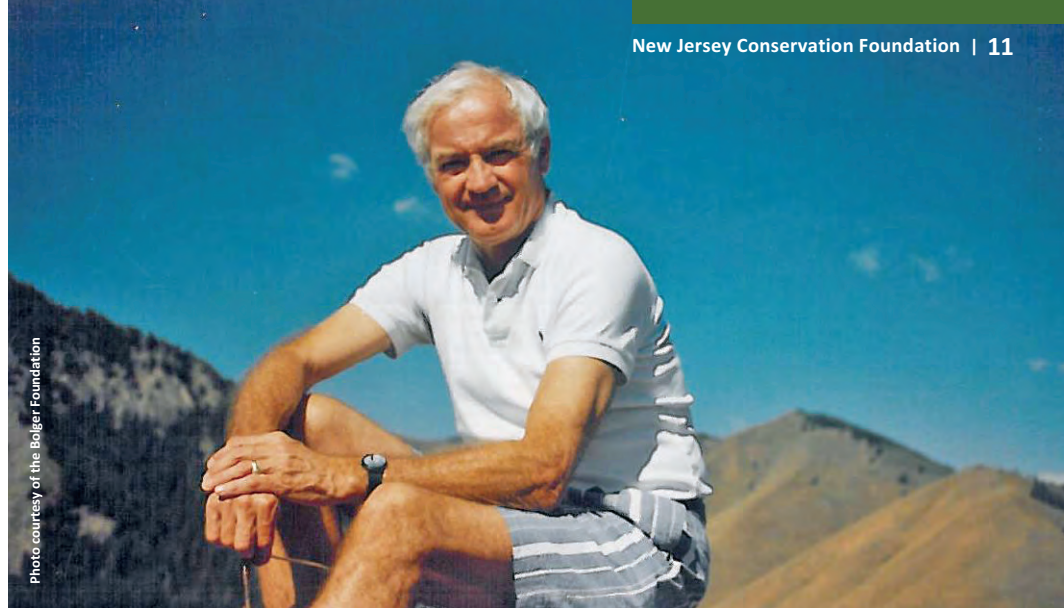
FAMILY FOUNDATION DONATES LAND TO NJ CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The late David Bolger loved the patch of woods behind his home in Midland Park, Bergen County, where he raised his family.

"Those woods were one of his joys," recalled David's son, J.T. Bolger. "We spent many a time in those woods. It was like our oasis. We used to eat the blackberries off the bushes that grew there."

David Bolger – well known locally for his philanthropy – placed a conservation easement on the woods in 1979 to make sure they could never be developed by a future owner.

Mr. Bolger passed away in December 2018 at the age of 86. Now, in his memory, the Bolger Foundation has donated 2.9 acres of woods for a pocket-sized nature preserve in a heavily suburbanized area and contributed to an endowment to steward the land.



"We really appreciate this donation from the Bolger Foundation," said Michele S. Byers, executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "It's one of the last remaining forested properties in the area, so it's important for wildlife - and also for local residents looking for a quiet place to connect with nature."

J.T. Bolger said his father, who grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania, believed in spending time outdoors. On weekends, he would tend the woods behind his home, clearing dead brush and picking up litter. J.T. added that his father habitually cleaned up trash and litter wherever he went, and encouraged his children to do the same.

David Bolger was also interested in land preservation on a larger scale. He was friends

with Fred Ferber, inventor and manufacturer of ballpoint pens, who owned considerable land in North Jersey. Bolger worked with former New Jersey Conservation Foundation Executive Director Dave Moore to preserve about 3,000 acres of Ferber's woods, which are now part of Wawayanda State Park.

Bolger's own patch of woods is home to over 70 bird species, including great-horned owls, hawks and migratory songbirds.

"My father's goal was to have it preserved for people to enjoy and walk," said J.T., who serves as a trustee of the Bolger Foundation. "We hope the public realizes it's there and gets to use it. And maybe they'll pick up a piece of trash or two. My dad would like that."

Family donates great-grandmother's land in Pine Barrens

NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO, IN THE SUMMER OF 1923, A DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN MADE A PITCH TO FRANCES SESKA, A WIDOW LIVING IN A JERSEY CITY ROW HOUSE: FOR A LOW PRICE, SHE AND HER CHILDREN COULD ESCAPE THE CROWDED CITY AND RELAX IN THE HEALTHY ATMOSPHERE OF THE PINE BARRENS.

Frances was convinced, and soon became the owner of two verdant acres deep in the Pine Barrens outside the village of Chatsworth, Burlington County, often dubbed "The Capital of the Pines."

But Jersey City was a long way from Chatsworth, and travel wasn't easy.

"As far as we know, the family never got to use the property," said Anne Meddis of Virginia, Frances' great-granddaughter. "My grandmother and great-grandmother lived in the same house in Jersey City all their lives, with occasional forays to the countryside of

northern New Jersey to get out of the city. Perhaps the Pinelands was too far a trip for them."

The land remained in the family, however, and was passed down to succeeding generations. "My dad (John Mosier, Frances' grandson) did visit it once years ago," said Anne. "He kept ownership of the land for sentimental reasons, out of respect for his mother's and grandmother's vision of having a healthful, safe place out in nature for the family."

The family's two acres eventually were surrounded by the Franklin Parker Preserve, established in 2003 when New Jersey Conservation Foundation bought the former A.R. DeMarco cranberry and blueberry farm, nearly 10,000 acres of bogs, meadows and pine forests.

This summer, Anne and other family members donated their two acres to New Jersey Conservation Foundation in memory of Frances Seska. It is now part

of the Franklin Parker Preserve.

"My family is happy to now donate the land to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation," said Anne. "Preserving the property as a natural haven seems very much in keeping with my great-grandmother's intentions nearly a century ago."

According to Anne, her father described Frances as "a smart, tough and very hard-working person" who immigrated to the United States from Germany.

Thank you to the family of Frances Seska for generously ensuring that this special piece of the beautiful Pine Barrens is available to all!

The Franklin Parker Preserve now stands at 11,381 acres – about 16 square miles – and includes about 27 miles of trails.

To learn more about the preserve, go to <https://www.njconservation.org/preserve/franklin-parkerpreserve/>



Photo by P.C. Robinson

MICHELE S. BYERS, SECOND FROM RIGHT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, GREETES FOUR FORMER GOVERNORS HONORED ON OCT. 19. FROM LEFT ARE GOVERNORS JAMES FLORIO, CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, THOMAS KEAN AND JAMES MCGREEVEY. THE LATE BRENDAN BYRNE WAS ALSO HONORED.

FIVE FORMER GOVERNORS HONORED AT 60TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF

FIVE FORMER NEW JERSEY GOVERNORS WERE AMONG DOZENS HONORED BY NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION ON SATURDAY, OCT. 19, AS WE KICKED OFF A YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A DINNER AT THE SOMERSET HILLS COUNTRY CLUB IN BERNARDSVILLE.

Governors Thomas Kean, James Florio, Brendan Byrne, Christine Todd Whitman, and James McGreevey were lauded for their contributions to protect New Jersey's environment, and for their support of New Jersey Conservation Foundation during six decades of land preservation work and environmental advocacy.

Kean was honored for his work to enact the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, Florio for the National Parks and Recreation Act, Whitman for the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, and McGreevey for the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

Byrne was posthumously recognized for his work on the New Jersey Pinelands Protection Act and the New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Act.

Also honored was former Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden, who served on our Board of Trustees, for her work on the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act; and the late Congressman Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen, for his work to save the Great Swamp from being developed for a major airport.

Candace McKee Ashmun, the longest-serving member of the Pinelands Commission, was honored as a defender of the Pine Barrens, as was the late Franklin E. Parker III, the first chairman of the Pinelands Commission.

The evening's other honorees included:

THE 1960s: Charles R. and Lillie R. DeBevoise, Helen C. Fenske, and E. Esty and Helen D'Olier Stowell;

THE 1970s: Dr. Edward F. Babbott, Gordon A. Millspaugh Jr., David F. and Mary W. Moore, and Dr. David J. Reisner;

THE 1980s: Antoinette C. Bentley, Catherine A. M. Cavanaugh, I. Lloyd Gang, Donald B. and Beverley Jones, and Morton Scharman;

THE 1990s: William D. Dana, Jr., Sara Jane Gordon, C. Lawrence and Barbara Keller, and Langdon Palmer;

THE 2000s: C. Austin Buck, Michael W. Huber, Peter R. and Cynthia K. Kellogg, Samuel W. Lambert III, L. Keith Reed and R. Edwin Selover; and

THE 2010s: Dr. Rosina B. Dixon, Jennifer and Joseph Duke, Kenneth H. Klipstein II, Joan and Robert Rechnitz, and Anne Wright Wilson.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation began in 1960 as the Great Swamp Committee, which fought a four-and-a-half-year battle to keep the Port Authority from building a 10,000-acre "jetport" on the Great Swamp in Morris and Somerset counties. After the Great Swamp Committee succeeded preserving the swamp as a National Wildlife Refuge, it broadened its focus to become first the North Jersey Conservation Foundation and later the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

LONGTIME SUPPORTER PETER KELLOGG, LEFT, AN HONOREE, CHATS WITH CURRENT BOARD PRESIDENT ROSINA "NINA" DIXON AND FORMER PRESIDENT KENNETH H. KLIPSTEIN II, WHO WERE ALSO HONORED.



Photo by P.C. Robinson



Mark Your Calendar for Rally 2020!

Members of New Jersey's conservation community will gather on Friday, March 20, 2020 for the 24th annual New Jersey Land Conservation Conference – better known as the “Rally.”

The Rally is an educational and networking conference about preserving open space and farmland in New Jersey, and the 2020 theme is “Finding Common Ground.” The all-day event will be held at The Palace at Somerset Park, 333 Davidson Ave., Somerset.

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.

Exhibitors and vendors will display their products and services, and a group of “EnviroMentors” will help mentees connect with the land conservation community.

The conference is geared toward professionals and volunteers in New Jersey's land conservation community, as well as students in environmental programs. However, anyone interested in learning about land conservation is welcome. The conference includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and post-Rally happy hour. Last year's Rally was attended by about 400 people.

Lead 2020 Rally sponsors include the Victoria Foundation, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the Merrill G. and Erita E. Hastings Foundation, the Land Trust Alliance, Princeton Hydro, Maraziti Falcon LLP and New Jersey Audubon Society.

Exhibitors include the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), Hackensack Riverkeeper, JM Sorge, Licensed Site Remediation Professionals Association and Princeton Hydro.



For more information, a schedule of workshops, and online registration, go to www.njconservation.org/annual-nj-land-conservation-rally/ or google NJ Land Rally!

save
the date!

field & fashion

A FLORA & FAUNA BALL

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020
CEDAR LANE FARM IN OLDWICK

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
OF CONSERVATION
WITH THE BEST DANCE MUSIC
OF SIX DECADES

Welcome New Trustees

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes three new members to our Board of Trustees: Lisa Evans Lewis of Camden County, Kevin Kuchinski of Mercer County and William Knox of Somerset County.



Lisa is an assistant federal public defender for the District of New Jersey and also serves as an adjunct professor at Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

She recently received a certificate in nonprofit administration at University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. She is active on a variety of boards and community organizations in the Camden area. She serves as advisory board chair of the After-School All-Stars program of Philadelphia and Camden, and as an advisory board member of the Volunteers of America's Volunteer Up Legal

Clinic. She is the past president of the National Bar Association's Women Lawyers Division, Philadelphia chapter; served on the board of trustees of the Camden County Bar Association, and served as co-chair of the Camden County Bar Foundation's Commission on Diversity. Lisa earned a bachelor's degree from Adelphi University and a law degree from the Duke University School of Law.



Kevin leads a consulting practice focused on brand strategy and innovation and is a partner at Sourland Mountain Spirits in Hopewell, a farm-based craft distillery. He was vice

president of marketing at Church & Dwight. He is a member of the Hopewell Township Committee, where he served as mayor from 2016-18. He is a long-time supporter of conservation organizations, including the Watershed Institute, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, Arbor Day Foundation, Sierra Club and New Jersey Conservation Foundation. He is co-chair of the advisory board for the Watershed Institute, and is vice-president of the Hopewell Valley Education Foundation. He is a founding

member of Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline and worked to expand open space and preserved farmland in the Hopewell Valley. Kevin received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Duke University. He and his wife, Leslie, have four children and two energetic labradoodles.



Bill worked as a federal tax lawyer in private practice with several New Jersey firms, including Herold Haines Knox McGowan in Bernardsville and Warren. He served as chair of the

New Jersey State Bar Association's Section on Taxation in 1980-81. He also earned his Certified Financial Planner and Chartered Financial Analyst credentials and worked in private wealth management, retiring in 2009. Bill received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and a law degree from the Harvard Law School. He is a trustee of Drew University in Madison, and a former trustee of the Bonnie Brae School in Basking Ridge. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in a restored 1830s farmhouse in the Liberty Corner section of Bernards Township and have three adult children.

Welcome New Staff

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes two new staff members, Erica Colace of Morristown as Development Manager and Jane Halstead of Cranford as Accounting Manager.

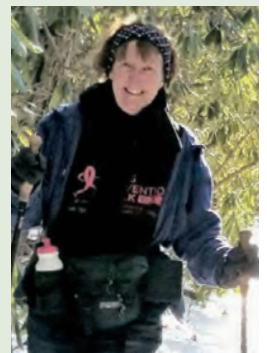
Prior to joining New Jersey Conservation, Erica served as executive director of Grow it Green Morristown, where she led the organization's work to provide fresh, local produce to the Morristown community. Previously, she was executive assistant at the New York-New Jersey Trail

Conference and outreach and education director for the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. She also represented the Coalition while working with NJ Keep it Green to secure long-term funding for New Jersey's land preservation programs. Erica began her career as an environmental educator at the Meadowlands Environment Center, teaching science-based content to students and adults with disabilities. Erica is a



graduate of Ramapo College of New Jersey's Institute of Environmental Studies.

Jane, a Certified Public Accountant, previously owned a small accounting firm for over 15 years, where she served small businesses and a number of nonprofit clients. She later worked as the finance director for two nonprofit organizations. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Bucknell University, and enjoys hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and music.



Wilma Frey honored with Women & Wildlife Legacy Award



Did you know that frogs and toads like to be scratched on their heads?
Wilma Weggel Frey, our senior policy manager, learned to do this as a child at her home's small pond.

"After you have quietly approached a frog or toad and it has not hopped away, try gently scratching it with a long small twig on the top of its head, between, the eyes," she advises. "The creature may even lean from side to side in response to your shifting the place you are scratching."

Wilma was honored on Nov. 13 with the Women & Wildlife Legacy Award, given by the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, which annually recognizes outstanding women for their achievements in protecting the state's endangered and threatened wildlife.

Dr. Emile DeVito introduced Wilma, noting her two Harvard graduate degrees (in landscape architecture and public administration), her four daughters, and her five decades of work protecting wildlife and wilderness.

In the 1970s and 80s, Wilma worked with national groups attempting to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; wilderness in eastern national forests; the Pine Barrens; the Delaware, Housatonic and other rivers; the Boston Harbor islands; Martha's Vineyard; and the Atlantic coastline and its fisheries.

Wilma observed that when she came to New Jersey 30 years ago, she was "astonished to discover the beautiful vistas and scenic quality of the Highlands hills." She saw the beauty and relative wildness of the Highlands region as a treasure to be safeguarded.

Joining New Jersey Conservation in 1990, Wilma fought to preserve the Highlands region, assisting local groups to defeat developments that would have destroyed forests. She helped lead the lengthy and circuitous efforts that eventually secured legislation to conserve the Highlands region. Passage of the New Jersey and federal Highlands Acts in 2004 was a career high – followed, however, by vigilance over their implementation.

Wilma observed that Highlands forests provide habitat for many rare, threatened and endangered animals and plants, and that public agencies at all levels "have both the opportunity and the obligation to tenaciously guard this habitat and its beauty."

She pointed to recent studies confirming that mature forests sequester the most carbon in the essential near-term time frame, and urged all to support the protection and only the gentlest of management of New Jersey's public forests. "Forest beauty and wildness – lovely together," she declared. "Long may they endure."

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

Erica Colace, Development 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

Jane Halsted, CPA, Accounting Manager

Amy Hansen, Policy Analyst

Maria Hauser, Personnel Manager/Executive Assistant

Steven Jack, Land Steward

Russell Juel, Senior Land Steward

Seth Kantor, Development Assistant

Bill Lynch, M.S., Assistant Director, Education Programs & Communications

Lisa MacCollum, Assistant Director of Land Acquisition

Melanie Mason, Land Steward

Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director & Acting Director of Development

Stephanie Monahan, Assistant Director, South Jersey

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

Susan Schmidt, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Bill Scullion, Land Steward, South Jersey

Connor Stone, Development & Communications Coordinator

Laura Szwak, Director of Outreach & Education

Ingrid Vandegaer, Manager, Highlands Region

John S. Watson, Jr., Senior Director of Statewide Land Protection & Community Relations

Allison Williams, Stewardship Coordinator

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