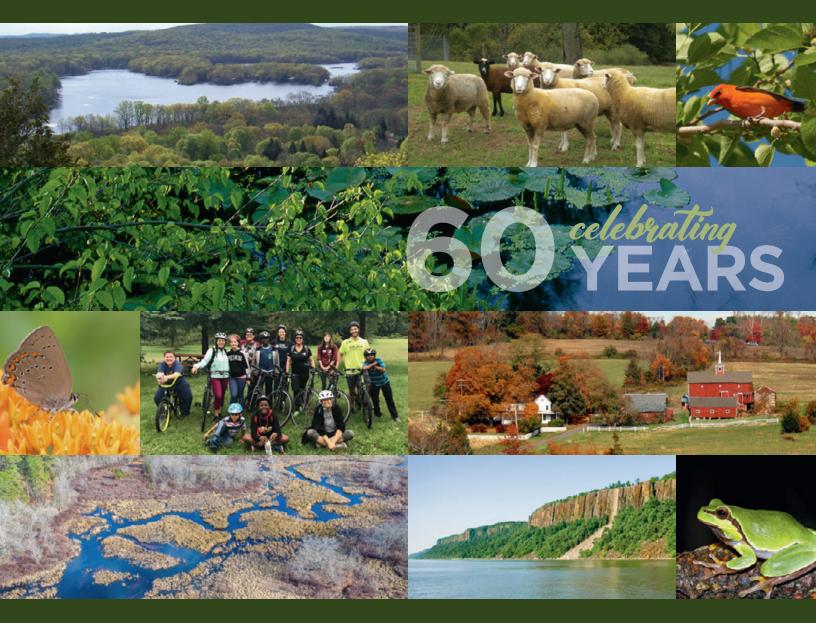
# New Jersey Conservation



- of YEARS AGO!
- The battle to save the Great Swamp led to the founding of New Jersey Conservation Foundation.
- 10 FARMLAND FOREVER
  Two more farms are preserved along the scenic and pristine Black River in Somerset County.
- 14 CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT
  An innovative mapping tool was honored with a
  Governor's Environmental Excellence Award



New Jersey Conservation

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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,



#### **ABOUT THE COVER**

A sincere thank you to the many talented photographers who have provided us with beautiful images of nature and preserved open space and farmland over the past 60 years! The cover collage includes photos from Lisa MacCollum, Bill Lynch, Mark Barrick, Francis Rapa, Albert Horner, Anthony Taranto and Michael Hogan.



### From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

In tough times the people, places, and things that really matter become abundantly clear. With the coronavirus upending life as we have known it, our access to and enjoyment of nature and preserved open spaces has risen to the top.

I see so many people turning to nature for solace, a break from couches and computers, and a change of scenery. This has brought me comfort at a difficult time.

But please know: This land would not be preserved if not for you, our members and supporters!

Your steadfast support and investment in our land saving work has made all the difference. I know when I step outside and leave the self-isolation of my house to walk in a park or forest, I have you to thank.

This year is New Jersey Conservation Foundation's 60th anniversary, and needless to say the celebration hasn't been what any of us expected. But the pandemic has taught us to be grateful for our blessings, including preserved lands and the generous supporters who have made them possible!

Read about the events that led to the founding of New Jersey Conservation Foundation in 1960, as well as past and current land preservation projects. Thanks to you, over 125,000 acres have been permanently preserved in the past 60 years!

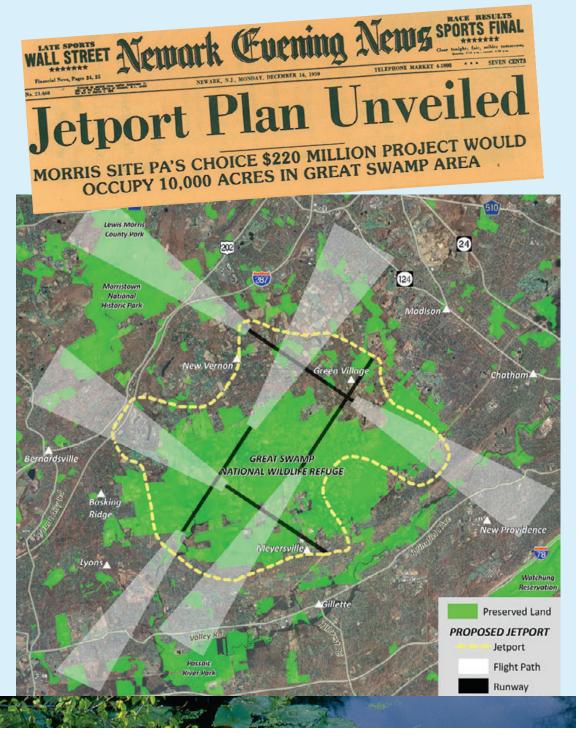
I wish you and your families and friends good health, and hope you get outside at every chance to experience and revel in the signs of spring.

I can't wait to see you again in person on a van tour, a hike, or an event when the health crisis is over. New Jersey Conservation Foundation will continue protecting parks, farms, forests, and trails in your communities and throughout the state. These places are essential to our health and quality of life, especially in times like these! But until then, please keep yourself and your families safe and healthy.

Michele S Byers



Visit the Great Swamp of Morris and Somerset counties and you'll be struck by its serene beauty. On a warm spring day, you may see great blue herons, turtles, wood ducks, beavers and more...



... Today's visitors might find it hard to imagine that this natural paradise less than 30 miles from downtown Manhattan could have been an asphalt jungle of runways, highways and airport terminals. 

The threat to the swamp was revealed a few weeks before Christmas in 1959, when a banner headline in the **Newark Evening News** reported that the powerful **Port Authority was planning** to build a major "jetport" on 10.000 acres of marshland and forest.

"Shock, disbelief and anger swept over the residents of the Great Swamp area," wrote author Catherine "Cam" Cavanaugh in her book, Saving the Great Swamp. "It would mean not only the loss of homes, churches, schools and local businesses, but the destruction of a peaceful way of life."

Almost overnight, grassroots opposition sprang up. Residents formed the Great Swamp Committee and the Jersey Jetport Site Association. An ingenious plan hatched by the two groups was to fight the jetport proposal on the legal front while quietly buying up land in the Great Swamp and convincing the U.S. Department of the Interior to turn it into a national wildlife refuge.

The late Helen Fenske, a self-described Green Village housewife, organized a coalition of volunteers to raise funds. Working out of her kitchen, she enlisted the help of many local residents, including Marcellus Hartley Dodge and his wife, Geraldine, prominent conservationists and philanthropists.

By September 1960, they had locked up 1,000 acres. By 1964, they had more than 3,000 acres – enough to meet federal requirements for a new wildlife refuge and effectively thwart the jetport plan.

On May 29, 1964, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was officially dedicated. The battle of the Great Swamp was over but

another story was just beginning – the story of New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

That year, the Great Swamp Committee became the North Jersey Conservation Foundation to reflect a broadened scope of activities, with Helen Fenske at the helm as the first director.

North Jersey Conservation Foundation quickly expanded its sights under David Moore, the second executive director, with the name changed to New Jersey Conservation Foundation to reflect the new statewide mission.

This year, New Jersey Conservation Foundation is celebrating 60 years of saving land.

"Over the past six decades, New Jersey
Conservation Foundation has preserved over
125,000 acres of land from High Point to Cape
May, and from the Delaware River to the
Atlantic Ocean," said executive director
Michele S. Byers, the third person in that post.
"We've also played a key role in every major
statewide initiative to preserve and protect
New Jersey's land and natural resources."

In the first three decades, most preserved lands were turned over to other agencies to manage. The Great Swamp properties went to the Department of the Interior, and other lands were transferred to agencies like the state or federal government, counties or municipalities. Money from the sale of preserved lands went into a "revolving land fund" to buy more conservation lands.

Over time, New Jersey Conservation expanded its mission by keeping and stewarding some lands as nature preserves. Today, New Jersey Conservation operates 17 preserves.

The largest, the **Franklin Parker Preserve** in the Pine Barrens, was created in 2003 with the purchase of the former DeMarco family cranberry and blueberry farm. After several additions, the preserve stands at over 11,000 acres – or nearly 16 square miles – and includes more than 25 miles of trails.

Others include the Apshawa Preserve in Passaic County, the Maureen Ogden Preserve in Morris County, the Hill & Dale Preserve in Hunterdon County, the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve in Hunterdon County, the Mount Rose Preserve in Mercer County, the Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve in Ocean County, the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve in Burlington County, the Lakes Bay Preserve

in Atlantic County, and **Gateway Park** in the city of Camden.

New Jersey Conservation has preserved more farmland than any other nonprofit group in the state. To date, 239 farms totalling over 21,000 acres were preserved by us and our partners.

#### Notable preserved farms include:

■ The historic Green-Johnson farm in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, which in 1984 became one of the first farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation. Two years later, the adjacent Fisher family farms were preserved, forming the hub of a new agricultural district in the scenic Rosemont Valley.

- The Harris family's **Cowtown Rodeo** property in Pilesgrove Township, Salem County, one of the largest farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation. In five separate transactions from 1990 to 2019, five parcels of farmland and grasslands totaling 820 acres were preserved.
- A former dairy farm in Washington Township, Warren County, was sold in 2010 to a couple starting a herd of water buffalo. The farm now has over 150 water buffalo and produces organic gourmet mozzarella cheese, yogurt and other products. It is the only water buffalo farm in New Jersey.

continued next page





#### TOP:

Helen Fenske enlisted the help of local Girl Scouts to send out appeals for donations to help preserve the Great Swamp as a national wildlife refuge.

#### BOTTOM:

The Great Swamp Committee and local educators emphasized the importance of the Great Swamp as a "living laboratory" at a conference at Drew University. Seated, from left, are Dr. Warren T. Ward of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Dr. Robert Zuck of Drew University, Jane Hand of the Great Swamp Committee and Sister Anna Catherine of the College of St. Elizabeth. Standing, from left, are Helen Fenske of the Great Swamp Committee, Dr. E.G. Stanley Baker of Drew University, Dr. Robert Krebs of the Great Swamp Committee, and Thomas Horn, regional supervisor of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

#### **NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

Over the past six decades, New Jersey
Conservation Foundation has preserved over
125,000 acres of land from High Point to
Cape May, and from the Delaware River to
the Atlantic Ocean. Some early preservation
successes included:

The **Wells Mills County Park** and sawmill in the headwaters of the Oyster Creek in the Pine Barrens, now Wells Mills Park in Ocean County;

The former **McBride family celery farm** in Allendale, Bergen County, now the Celery Farm Natural Area;

The **Cold Brook Preserve** in Tewksbury Township, now a Hunterdon County park;

**Walnford Mills**, an 18th century home and gristmill in Upper Freehold Township, now a Monmouth County park;

**Grover's Mill Pond** in West Windsor Township, where Orson Welles landed his Martians in the infamous 1938 "War of the Worlds" broadcast;

The **Walt Whitman House** on Mickle Street in downtown Camden, now part of the state's Walt Whitman Historic Complex.





# Over 60 years, it's a given that some preservation projects take far more time than anyone could have imagined.

Take the Holly Farm in Cumberland County, for example. In the 1980s, New Jersey Conservation Foundation became increasingly concerned about development threats to this incredibly diverse landscape in the Delaware Bay region.

In 1988, New Jersey Conservation's assistant director at the time, Thomas Wells, authored a report titled "Conservation Plan for the Manumuskin River Watershed." He characterized the watershed as "one of the most interesting and important natural ecosystems in all of New Jersey" for its pristine wetlands and a diversity of rare plants and animals.

The report advocated for the permanent preservation of critical properties, including the Holly Farm. The property is named for an old holly orchard on site, but most of the land is natural forest that's part of the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

As decades passed, we and other conservation advocates fought off nonstop development proposals for the Holly Farm: a toxic waste "entombment" facility, storage site for low-level radioactive waste, sand mine, coal-fired power generating plant, senior citizen housing complex, golf course, and turf farm with soccer events.

Finally, at the end of 2019, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection announced plans to permanently preserve the nearly 1,400-acre property (about 2.2 square miles) in Millville and Maurice River Township.

The Holly Farm is now preserved, more than 30 years later! To think ... advocacy efforts on behalf of the Holly Farm preservation extended through more than half of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's history!



The Holly Farm is one of the most interesting and important natural ecosystems in all of New Jersey.

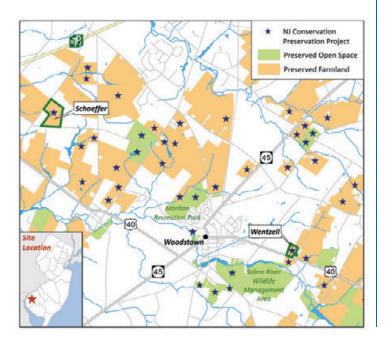
# 100+ acres OF FARMLAND PRESERVED IN SALEM COUNTY

Farming is a tough life, but David Schaeffer loves it. "I wouldn't change it for a billion dollars. It's in my blood," said the longtime Salem County farmer.



Irrigation equipment is ready at a field on the Schaeffer farm in Pilesgrove Township, Salem County.

Schaeffer's love of the county's rural landscape – and his desire to pass his farm down to his son - prompted him to permanently preserve 81 acres of farmland in Pilesgrove Township with the help of New Jersey Conservation Foundation.



Kenneth Wentzell, another Salem County resident with a long family farming tradition, recently did the same with his 21-acre farm, also in Pilesgrove.

Schaeffer and Wentzell both sold the development rights on their farms, ensuring that the fertile lands will remain farmland forever. They still own the land, which is now restricted to agricultural uses.

The Schaeffer farm grows soybeans, field corn, sweet corn, sweet peas, wheat and rye. Selling the development rights, Schaeffer explained, not only allows him to pay off the debt on his farm, but will enable him to purchase additional farmland.

The Schaeffer farm is part of the "Sharptown grasslands" complex, an area with outstanding soil quality and over a thousand preserved acres. Nearby preserved lands include the Cowtown Rodeo's cattle and horse grazing lands, the state's Featherbed Lane Wildlife Management Area, and the Kelly, Stoms and Atanasio farms, all preserved by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners.

The Ken Wentzell farm, located a few miles to the east, also has excellent soil quality and grows field crops.

It isn't the first Wentzell family farm to be preserved. Six years ago, Ken and his brother Wayne preserved 84 acres directly through the state's farmland program; and in 2018, Wayne and his wife, Marlene, preserved 34 acres that they own together. Some of the Wentzell properties have been in the family for over 100 years, dating back to when Ken and Wayne's grandfather began farming in the early 1900s.

Pilesgrove Township is one of Salem County's most active municipalities in preserving farmland. And with about 40,000 acres of preserved farmland, Salem leads the 21 New Jersey counties in protecting agricultural lands.



# GAINING GROUND

#### 7 Projects (Dec 2019 - Feb 2020)

▲ NJ Conservation Owned: (Fee or Easement)

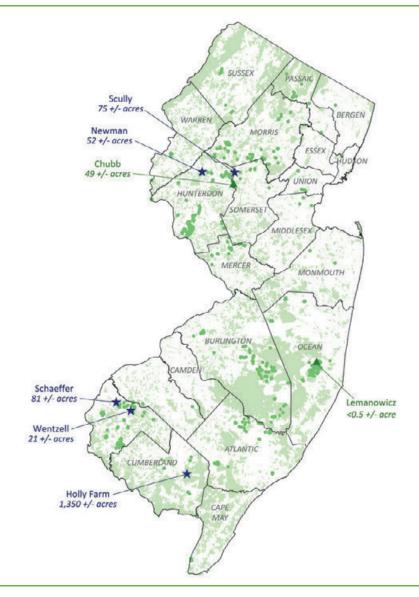
Preserved in Partnership: 1,579 acres

TOTAL: 1,628 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





Two beautiful properties along the Black River in Bedminster Township, Somerset County, totaling nearly 125 acres, have been permanently preserved as farmland.

A herd of ewes crowd together at the Scully-Peretsman farm in Bedminster Township, Somerset County.

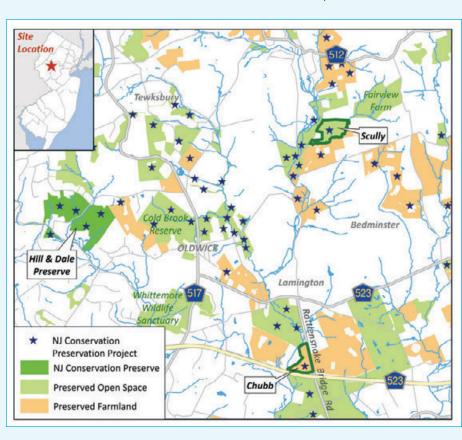
The first is a 75-acre farm along Black River Road, used for raising sheep and chickens and growing corn and hay; and the other is a 49-acre property along Rattlesnake Bridge Road, once eyed for corporate office development.

"Preserving these two properties protects agriculture, water quality and Bedminster's rural character," said Michele S. Byers, executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "We're very grateful to our many preservation partners for making this possible."

#### **Scully-Peretsman Farm**

Robert Scully and Nancy Peretsman, owners of the Black River Road farm, donated a conservation easement to Bedminster Township in December, ensuring that it will remain farmland forever. The couple wanted to make sure that the farm's agricultural heritage and rich and productive soils were protected. NJ Conservation assisted in the donation of the easement.

The farm is located just south of Pottersville village, and includes historic red barns housing 53 ewes. The scenic Axle Brook runs along the southern property edge, just before merging with the Black River, also known as the Lamington River.



Preserving the Scully farm adds to a large swath of preserved land in the neighborhood. To the north and south are other large preserved farms, and to the west is a mile of preserved riverfront open space owned by Bedminster Township. To the east is the 170-acre Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, headquarters of the nonprofit Raritan Headwaters Association.

#### **Chubb property**

The second newly-preserved property, located on Rattlesnake Bridge Road, was purchased for \$1.67 million from the Chubb Insurance Company. The property has river frontage on one side and Interstate 78 on another side. It is currently farmed for corn and hay.

The nonprofit Lamington Conservancy initially secured funding to purchase the development rights on the property, but the seller wanted it to be purchased outright. New Jersey Conservation Foundation stepped in and bought the farmland, while the Lamington Conservancy simultaneously purchased the development rights and transferred them to Somerset County. Funding was provided by the State Agriculture **Development Committee, Somerset** County and the New Jersey Highlands Council.

"It's a good chunk of land," said Bob Holtaway, president of the Lamington Conservancy and a former Bedminster mayor. "This transaction sews up the northwest corner of the Interstate 78 interchange and keeps it agricultural, so all is well."

Holtaway noted that land on the other three corners of the Rattlesnake Bridge Road-Interstate 78 interchange were preserved earlier, so the area will never be developed.

The Chubb property is surrounded by preserved farmland and open space. It's across the street from the Buffalo Country LLC farm, also known as Red Tail Farm; across the river from the Emmet and Whitman farms in Tewksbury Township. On the other side of I-78, Somerset County owns hundreds of acres of parkland and New Jersey Conservation helped preserve the Lana Lobell horse farm.

### Fight continues against PennEast pipeline

Nearly six years after the PennEast company began pursuing approvals for a 120-mile natural gas pipeline from the Marcellus shale "fracking" region in Luzerne County, PA, to Mercer County, NJ, the fate of the project is still uncertain.



PennEast claims extra pipeline capacity is needed, an assertion refuted by gas experts and the NJ Ratepayer Advocate, the state's independent utility consumer watchdog.

"Not only is the PennEast pipeline not needed, it's been shown that this fossil fuel project would be extremely damaging to preserved lands, protected streams, and wildlife," said Tom Gilbert, campaign director for New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Rethink Energy NJ.

#### Here's an update:

- PennEast has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to review a lower court ruling that would prohibit the company from seizing lands owned and preserved by the State of New Jersey. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals found in November that PennEast does not have legal authority to condemn state-preserved lands. The Supreme Court has not indicated yet whether it will hear the case.
- Due to the Third Circuit ruling, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection denied PennEast's application for a Freshwater Wetlands Permit, saying the company did not have legal authority to apply for permits to build on state lands.
- In January, PennEast submitted a new application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to split the project into two phases: The first section in Pennsylvania would be built prior to the construction of the second section in New Jersey. PennEast has still not shown public need for building either phase of the pipeline.
- In February, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted PennEast a two-year extension for the completion of the project. The new deadline is Jan. 19, 2022.

New Jersey Conservation opposes PennEast's application to split the project into two phases. "PennEast has submitted a completely new application, not a simple amendment," said Gilbert. "It is a completely new concept and set of facts that require comprehensive review, including a new evaluation of public need for the project. This proposal is a subversion of the Natural Gas Act."

Forty-two of the properties PennEast targeted for condemnation in Hunterdon and Mercer counties are state-preserved farmland and open space.

Many were preserved in partnership with counties, municipalities and private land trusts, including New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Many 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 is at odds with the state's climate and energy policies that are targeting 100% clean energy by 2050.



Jane M. Halsted

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges donors who made contributions between October 2019 and December 2019. With your support, we work hard to preserve and protect New Jersey's lands.

Robert and Pamela Becker

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(from October 2019 through December 2019)

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(from October 2019 through December 2019)

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(from October 2019 through December 2019)

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### NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION!

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 preserving 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 New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, with over 85 percent of its land area developed, constrained or permanently preserved. What should be done with the remaining 15 percent?

New Jersey Conservation Blueprint – a data-driven, interactive mapping tool developed by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Rowan University and The Nature Conservancy – will help answer that question.

Conservation Blueprint provides a huge amount of information. It can help identify lands near existing parks, lands with the best soils for farming, or lands that provide habitat for endangered and threatened species. One especially interesting feature is an animated map that charts the state's urban and suburban growth during the 30-year period from 1986 through 2015.

More than 140 data sets are available on Conservation Blueprint, including regional analysis, landowner contacts and funding collaborations. And it is free, accessible with the click of a mouse. Check it out at <a href="https://www.njmap2.com/blueprint/">www.njmap2.com/blueprint/</a>.



In December, New Jersey Conservation Blueprint was honored with a 2019 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe, left, presented the award to the team that included Laura Szwak, retired New Jersey Conservation Foundation Director of Outreach & Education; Eric Olsen, Director of Land Programs, Nature Conservancy of New Jersey; John Hasse, Ph.D., Director of Geospatial Research Lab, Rowan University; and New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Executive Director David Zimmer.

Conservation Blueprint was established in 2016 by a partnership of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Rowan University, and 22 other conservation leaders from government and the nonprofit sectors.

# Anne L Gaus, longtime volunteer

For more than a decade, you could set your watch to the arrival of

volunteer Anne L. Gaus at New Jersey Conservation Foundation's main office in Chester Township. Every Thursday morning, promptly at 10 a.m., she would walk through the front door with a smile on her face, ready to lighten the load of the office staff.

Anne was happy to help out wherever needed – organizing records, stuffing envelopes, researching information, filing receipts and invoices, processing data and more. Even as her health failed, she rarely missed a day.

"You could not ask for a nicer and more dedicated volunteer than Anne," said Michele S. Byers, executive director. "Any organization would be lucky to have her, and we miss her very much."

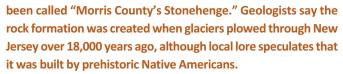
Anne passed away early Christmas morning, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019, only a few weeks after her last volunteer visit.

Her volunteer activities were many. In addition to volunteering for New Jersey Conservation Foundation, she helped out at the Nature Conservancy and the Morris County Park Commission. She served on the board of the Somerset Hills YMCA, was a member of the Peapack-Gladstone Parent Teacher Organization, and was secretary of the Junior Women's Club of Somerset Hills.

Our deepest condolences to Anne's children, grandchildren and her many friends.

### Remembering Lucy Meyer

Tripod Rock, an enormous boulder balanced atop three tiny rocks, has



Whatever its origin, Tripod Rock clearly was a landmark worth protecting. But in the 1980s, the land surrounding it was proposed for housing.

That's when Lucy Meyer stepped in. Lucy was the tenacious leader of the Committee to Save Pyramid Mountain, a grassroots group dedicated to preserving the land around Tripod Rock and other natural landmarks. An engineer by training, she also served as a local historian and a Kinnelon Township Environmental Commission member.

Thanks largely to Lucy's persistent efforts, the development proposal was stopped and the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area was created. Today, the natural area encompasses more than 1,500 acres, including a high point called "Lucy's Overlook."

Lucy Meyer passed away in December 2019 at the age of 89. She will always be remembered as an extraordinary individual who fought tirelessly to protect the places and landmarks she loved.

Our deepest condolences go out to Lucy's family and friends.



### **Meet interns Miranda and Caroline**

Thanks to internship grant programs named for two former trustees – Langdon Palmer and Edward Babbott – we welcomed interns Miranda Jakubek of Westfield and Caroline Burns of Maplewood last fall.

Miranda graduated from Tulane
University in May 2017 and is working toward
a graduate certificate in Environmental Policy
and International Development from Harvard
University. Caroline is working toward her
Masters of Science and Bachelor of Science
degrees in Sustainability Science from
Montclair State University.

While at New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Miranda and Caroline:

- Helped organize the 2020 New Jersey Land Conservation Rally by soliciting proposals for workshops, recruiting presenters, creating an online schedule for the conference, developing their own workshop proposal, participating in Rally Committee meetings and keeping the event website up to date;
- Helped with the development of the Camden module for the NJ Conservation Blueprint, an online mapping system identifying conservation priorities. Miranda wrote descriptions of 35 public parks in Camden, and Caroline identified park access points using Google Street View and GIS. The Camden module will help link park use, availability and health indicators;
- Helped clear trails and improve visitor experience at several New Jersey Conservation Foundation preserves;

- Researched and created a report about natural solutions to climate change;
- Attended New Jersey Conservation policy committee meetings to learn about issues affecting the state's environmental and conservation policies.

Thank you to Miranda and Caroline, and good luck in your careers!



Land steward Melanie Mason, left, shows interns Miranda Jakubek and Caroline Burns how to remove invasive plants at a preserve in Hunterdon County.

# Michele Byers honored by Garden Club of America

Executive Director Michele S. Byers was named an "Honorary Member" of the Garden Club of America in January, becoming one of only about 80 people so honored in the past 100 years.

"Each year, the Garden Club of America recognizes men and women with an established reputation in horticulture or conservation, or with knowledge and interest in the purposes of The Garden Club of America, with honorary membership," explained Pamela Hirsch, admissions representative for the club's Zone IV, which includes New Jersey.

"This is truly a well-deserved honor," said Rosina "Nina" Dixon, president of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Board of Trustees. "There's no one more passionate about preserving New Jersey's lands and natural resources than Michele Byers."

A Pottersville resident, Michele has been with New Jersey Conservation Foundation for more than half of its 60-year history. She joined the organization in 1982 as coordinator of advocacy efforts in the Pine Barrens, and in 1999 was asked to move into the top position.

Through the years, Michele has made a significant impact on the state's Farmland Preservation Program, Highlands and Pinelands preservation, Camden City's Cooper River Greenway, and thousands of acres of preserved lands throughout the state. Landmark environmental laws were passed with New Jersey Conservation Foundation's advocacy and guidance, including the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act and the Pinelands and Highlands regional planning acts.

She has served on many state and regional boards and committees, including the State Planning Commission and the Highlands Task Force.

#### **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

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 Juelg, Senior Land Steward

**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

 ${\bf Timothy\ Morris,} \textit{Director\ of\ Stewardship}$ 

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

Ingrid Vandegaer, Manager, Highlands Region

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

Allison Williams, Stewardship Coordinator

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an Equal

Opportunity Employer and we are committed to building
a diverse workforce and board of trustees.



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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).

### Nature is still open and needs YOU!

With our lives upended, **nature still needs advocates and watchdogs** for clean water, clean air, healthy local food, trails, wildlife, and natural beauty. These are the very foundation of healthy lives and communities. **And they need help now more than ever!** 

As attacks on the environment continue in Washington, we continue to protect land and water, promote affordable clean energy policies, and counter climate change here at home.

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