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Annual Report



New Jersey Conservation
FOUNDATION

From Our Leadership

The year 2020 was a year like no other. COVID-19 turned the world upside down for many people, businesses and nonprofits, including New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

But thanks to the generosity of our members and funders and the passionate commitment of the board and staff we were able to continue our land saving work and pursue our mission. The 60th anniversary virtual celebration and year-end giving campaigns were both fun and successful!

At the end of 2020 we had helped permanently preserve another 2,500 acres of open space and farmland. Read all about it beginning on page 18!

The policy team's fight to stop the unneeded PennEast gas pipeline went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and we celebrated major accomplishments including a new state Energy Master Plan to achieve 100% clean energy, and full, permanent funding of the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund. Go to page 22 to read more.

Despite the difficulties of remote work, the staff proved to be resilient and adaptable. Recognizing that lack of interaction among the staff could be difficult, monthly staff hikes and outdoor outings were scheduled to provide time together and support for each other. And we know more changes are coming!

Michele has announced her retirement from her role as Executive Director at the end of 2021. Michele has served as Executive Director since 1999 and started with the organization in 1982 as an intern in the Pine Barrens.

After much research and deliberation, the Board of Trustees decided to shift to an innovative leadership model with three co-directors leading the organization. Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director, will share leadership responsibilities with Tom Gilbert, Campaign Director for Energy, Climate and Natural Resources, and Jay Watson, Senior Director of Statewide Land Protection & Community Relations.

Alison, Tom and Jay are three strong, experienced leaders with complimentary skills and steeped in New Jersey Conservation's culture of collaboration, sharing and consensus building. They are primed to launch New Jersey Conservation Foundation's exciting strategic plan initiatives to the next level.

Thank you to our members and friends for your unwavering support! With your help, New Jersey Conservation Foundation will continue to successfully protect our state's land, natural resources and quality of life.

Sincerely,

NINA DIXON and MICHELE BYERS

Nina Dixon Michele Byers



Rosina "Nina" Dixon, President

Michele S. Byers, Executive Director

ON THE COVER

This striking lo Moth, illustrated by Allen Crawford, is a native to New Jersey. Read more about the Crawfords, and their love of wildlife, on page 6.

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OUR MISSION

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. Through acquisition and stewardship, we protect strategic lands from the Highlands to the Pine Barrens to the Delaware Bayshore. We promote strong land conservation policies at the local, state and federal levels, forge partnerships to achieve conservation goals, and provide support and technical assistance to partner groups. Since 1960, we have helped protect more than 125,000 acres of natural areas, farms, parks and water resources.

JOIN US

For membership information, please visit:
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It's in their nature to create art!

Nature has always inspired artists of all types.

“Art is born of the observation and investigation of nature,” wrote the Roman statesman, scholar and philosopher Cicero more than 2,000 years ago. Nineteenth century English poet Philip James Bailey believed, “Art is man’s nature; nature is God’s art.”

In the following pages, meet several New Jersey artists who draw inspiration from nature. Allison Tyler constructs “ephemeral” sculptures of found materials in the woods, Jeff Hoagland writes haiku poetry inspired by nature, graphic artists Susan and Allen Crawford create bold and colorful illustrations of flora and fauna, and filmmaker Jared Flesher explores the relationships between humans and the natural world. And Sarah Kavage is building large sculptures of material like reeds and straw that double as benches and gardens!

Artist creates ephemeral works



from nature's materials

If you're out hiking in the Morristown vicinity, keep your eyes peeled. You may be lucky enough to stumble upon the subtle, ephemeral artwork of Allison R. Tyler.

Allison creates "environmental art" – also known as land art or Earth art – using found natural materials like twigs, fallen leaves, acorns, stones, tree blossoms and bits of dried moss.

She might, for example, create a tiny stick "ladder" in split tree bark, a garland of autumn leaves that flutter in the breeze, or a twig bridge between rocks in a stream. Some of her works are so small that you might imagine them to be built by woodland fairies!

"I've pretty much always done it," she says. "As a kid I would spend a lot of time in the woods making things. I just never outgrew it."

Allison describes her artwork as "deliberately ephemeral," not designed to last long. She doesn't use glue or adhesives, relying instead on a combination of "balance, luck, gravity and patience."

She also takes great care not to disturb her surroundings; she doesn't pick flowers or break leaves off plants. "I just rearrange what nature has left on the ground," she explained. "It's the least impactful way to make art that I know of."

The only time she departs from natural materials is when she leaves behind an inspirational message or a painted pebble.

Allison considers her environmental art to be a form of meditation. "I really do it for me, but I like to think about someone coming across it." To her surprise, a friend hiking in the woods recently came upon other hikers who had just spotted a stick ladder and were wondering aloud about its origin.

But the majority of those who view Allison's works are online. She posts photos of her favorite creations on Instagram, and hopes they'll inspire people to walk in the woods more often - and be observant of small things.

If you want to look for Allison's creations in person, try her favorite spots like Lewis Morris County Park in Morristown, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge or the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Bernardsville.

To see photos of Allison's work, go to www.instagram.com/allisonrtyler.



Love of wildlife drives graphic artist couple

When graphic artists Susan and Allen Crawford met at New Jersey's Richard Stockton University, both intended to major in marine biology. But the college's science requirements were rigorous, and they were also interested in art.

"Illustration isn't supposed to be your fallback," noted Susan. "But chemistry proved to be my Waterloo."

Susan and Allen took many of the same drawing and graphic design classes at Stockton, and learned that their artistic styles were similar. Eventually they married and started a graphic arts business together. The appropriately named the Plankton Art Company was founded 25 years ago.

True to its name, Plankton Art specializes in creating images of the ocean creatures Susan and Allen originally wanted to study, as well as terrestrial plants and animals.

"Most of our work is strongly influenced by the forms, patterns, and colors of

plants and animals, particularly ones we've experienced firsthand," explained Allen, who has done multiple series of giclee prints of local butterflies, moths, turtles, and frogs.

As graphic artists, Susan and Allen make images meant for reproduction.

"We've done work for all sorts of clients, but we really enjoy working for natural history institutions like museums and zoos," said Allen. "We drew all the art for the identification keys in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life at the American Museum of Natural History."

The couple's travels have included scuba diving trips in Belize, South Africa and Australia. The experiences had a profound effect of them, said

Susan, inspiring them to protect wildlife habitats.

"Although I never became that marine biologist saving species on the front lines, as an illustrator, I've been able to educate, support and draw funding for environmental causes on a larger scale," said Susan.

In his spare time, Allan can be found out on the trails and rivers of the Pine Barrens. He helps with volunteer cleanups, checks in on rare plants to make sure they haven't been poached or wiped out by off-road vehicles, and also rescues turtles from roadway traffic.

To see the Crawfords' artwork, go to the website www.planktonart.com.



Environmental sculptures spring up in watershed

Imagine if invasive plants like phragmites – the thick beds of reeds found in marshes - could be transformed into a work of art in the city of Camden? Or if a sculpture made of straw bales along a former industrial railbed could grow food and become a beautiful community gathering place?

These two projects are part of a unique art initiative taking place at parks and environmental centers in the Delaware River watershed.

The Alliance for Watershed Education of the Delaware River, a network of organizations with missions related to water-based conservation and education, came up with the idea as a way to increase community engagement. Seattle-based environmental artist Sarah Kavage was commissioned to create outdoor sculptures at 17 sites.

Among the sculptures are “Portal” at Gateway Park in Camden, a pair of benches connected by a large arch made of phragmites harvested from the site; and “The Future is Open Ended,” a giant straw bale garden at Capital City Farm in Trenton, which provides food to a local soup kitchen.

The art is created with natural materials relevant to each site, and is inspired by traditional craft practices like roof thatching, basket weaving, furniture making, and hair braiding. “Each material tells a different story about the watershed, the people in it, and the connections between land and water - and serves as a metaphor for our current times,” says Sarah.

The project is known as the “Lenapehoking ~ Watershed,” a reference to both the Delaware River watershed and the land’s original inhabitants, the Lenape people.

To learn more, go to the website www.lenapehoking-watershed-art.com or the Instagram account [lenapehoking.watershed.art](https://www.instagram.com/lenapehoking.watershed.art).

Sarah Kavage (inset) and her sculpture “Portal” at Gateway Park



A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. In the background, the ocean is calm with a few distant structures visible on the horizon. The foreground and middle ground are filled with numerous horseshoe crabs. Some are partially submerged in the shallow, rippling water, while others are on the sandy beach. The crabs' dark, hard shells are prominent, and some show the lighter-colored underside. The water has a gentle, white foam as it washes onto the shore.

Filmmaker explores nature

in New Jersey and beyond

A little over a decade ago, Jared Flesher was a New Jersey journalist with a vision of making a documentary about sustainable agriculture. But he had no experience or funding, and wasn't sure if he should go ahead.

Then he heard Congressman Rush Holt tell an old tale of a landowner who admired someone else's beautiful old trees and wanted to plant his own. The man's arborist scoffed at the idea, pointing out that it would take 100 years to grow trees that tall. "In that case, let's plant them today," replied the wise landowner.

Jared took a lesson from the story: Instead of giving up, get started right away. "I decided I would just go for it," said the Hopewell resident. "I bought a cheap camera and someone gave me a microphone. I didn't really know what I was doing, but I figured I knew how to tell a story."

Thus was born Hundred Year Films, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Over the past decade, Jared learned the art of filmmaking through experience, and developed an affinity for nature as subject matter.

"I became very interested in the relationship between humans and the natural world, and decided to make that my focus," he explained.

His films include *Sourlands*, about the people, history and ecology of New Jersey's Sourland Mountains; *The Birds of May*, about the relationship between red knot

sandpipers and horseshoe crabs; *Field Biologist*, about a New Jersey man who moved to Costa Rica to study birds; and *Pine Mud*, about the impacts of off-road vehicles on Pine Barrens habitats. He also did a series, *Creature Show*, on New Jersey's endangered wildlife.

One of Jared's favorite parts of filmmaking is spending hours in the woods with his video camera, trying to capture footage of bats. "When I make a film about nature, it gives me the perfect excuse to do what I love to do anyway," he says.

What's next? Possibly a film on the Delaware Bayshore region and the people working to protect its unique natural heritage, or one about wild plants in wild places.

To learn more about Jared and see a 10th anniversary video with nature highlights from his documentaries, go to www.hundredyearfilms.com/anniversary.



piper
at the gates of dawn
wood thrush



Writing haiku

‘an antidote to a busy life’

Residents in the Hopewell area may occasionally discover mysterious poetry left in their midst: large, flat stones painted with verses of haiku and signed with the alias “Stonefly.”

The stealth poet is Jeff Hoagland, a naturalist who serves as education director at the nonprofit Watershed Institute in Pennington. “I place the stones strategically, just for fun, around town,” he said. “I want people to see this little art form.”

Jeff rediscovered the short Japanese poetry form, often nature themed, about 15 years ago when he started reading the works of Kobayashi Issa, born in 1763. “It really resonated,” he said. “I thought he should be my best friend, though it’s the wrong century.”

Jeff found himself jotting down his own nature-influenced haikus on scraps of paper and even on dollar bills. Soon he had a boxful of poems and knew he was hooked. He now is a regular contributor to haiku journals like The Heron’s Nest, where he is an associate editor. He also teaches haiku workshops.

“I see it as the antidote to a busy life,” he says. “I’m busy all the time, so practicing haiku slows me down and keeps my perspective broad. A lot of my haiku shines a light on the things we have in front of us. I live in a

science world, but I carry the arts within me.”

Jeff especially likes that haiku poems are open to interpretation, inviting readers to think about what the words mean to them and what images come to mind.

A few years ago, Jeff did a haiku workshop and walk at a park in New York City. He used clothespins to attach haikus written on bright green cards to trees and bushes. To his chagrin, a maintenance worker promptly started tearing them down and throwing them in the trash; she wouldn’t relent until he promised to remove the art installation in one hour.

A few minutes later, a jogger ran past him and stopped to read the haikus. Then she pulled out her phone and began taking photos of the poems, so she might keep or share them.

Jeff was overjoyed. “That’s exactly what the moment was supposed to do,” he said.

You can read some of Jeff’s haiku poems at <https://tinywords.com/author/jhoagland>.



green darner
stitching the sky
to the meadow

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DON'T SEE YOUR NAME? LET US KNOW!

Those who donated in 2021 will be included in next year's annual report, so stay tuned!

Share your thoughts and questions with Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director at alison@njconservation.org.

Gaining Ground



Higgins, East Amwell



Cumberland County

HOLLY FARM

1,350 acres, Maurice River Township and Millville City

New Jersey Conservation Foundation worked with a coalition of governmental and nonprofit organizations for 30 years to preserve this large tract of forest, critical to protecting wildlife and water resources. Nearly surrounded by preserved lands, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation joined litigation to prevent it from being sold for development. In 2020, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection was able to strike a deal with Atlantic City Electric Company to preserve the property, which is flanked by two nationally designated Wild and Scenic rivers.



Hunterdon County

ENTERS

17 acres, Tewksbury Township

Gary and Deborah Enters donated a 16-acre property to the Tewksbury Land Trust, after severing development rights. The property is near the Tewksbury Land Trust's Christmas Tree Farm and is part of an emerging network of preserved land in the area that could ultimately connect the Christmas Tree Farm to the township's popular Christie Hoffman Farm Park. The property is mostly mature woodlands, with a small tree farm in the cleared powerline easement. New Jersey Conservation Foundation serves as land preservation consultant to the Tewksbury Land Trust.

ETZEL

47 acres, Raritan Township

This property along the headwaters of the Wickecheoke Creek, a haven for birds and wildlife, was permanently preserved as public open space by a New Jersey Conservation Foundation led partnership. A former farm owned by the Etzel family since the 1930s, the land has been slowly reverting to forest and is now mostly wooded. It contains wetlands and meadows, and habitat for American kestrels, bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks and bald eagles. Old hunting trails provide the framework for a trail system.

HIGGINS

268 acres, East Amwell Township

A decades-long effort to establish a 1,150-acre nature preserve in the Sourland Mountains, straddling the border of Hunterdon and Somerset counties, got a big boost with the preservation of the Higgins property. The property includes woodlands, farm fields, a scenic lake and several tributaries of the Neshanic River. The land also includes some existing trails and is identified as a core habitat area for wildlife. Late in the year, the new nature preserve was named Rainbow Hill at Sourland Mountain Preserve. The preserve is used for passive recreational activities, including, hiking, horseback riding, birding and nature observation.

TURNQUIST

68 acres, Tewksbury Township

The Turnquist property is a new addition to the now nearly 370-acre Hill and Dale Preserve, and a critical link in Tewksbury Township's nearly completed 10-Mile Trail. The property connects the Hill and Dale Preserve to the County's Cold Brook Preserve in Oldwick village, with the help of a small trail access pledged by a neighbor. The property is mostly agricultural with some mature woods, and supports several threatened and endangered species, including bobcat and bobolink.

WERTSVILLE INDUSTRIES

112 acres, East Amwell Township

New Jersey Conservation Foundation's decades-long vision for a 1,150-acre nature preserve in the Sourland Mountains was finally realized with the acquisition of the Wertsville Industries property in late 2020. The site is contiguous to the Higgins property and is also now part of the new Rainbow Hill at Sourland Mountain Preserve. The property is predominantly farmland, with some forested land and a tributary of the Neshanic River, a source of clean drinking water for the region.

Monmouth County

HUBER

5 acres, Colts Neck Township

New Jersey Conservation donated this parcel to the Monmouth County Park System as an addition to the Dorbrook Recreation Area. Since this popular public park surrounded the Huber property, the transfer eliminated a private holding within a recreation area. New Jersey Conservation received the property in 2006 from a trust established by the late Marion Huber, who passed away in 2001. Marion's nephew, the late Michael Huber, was a New Jersey Conservation Foundation trustee and organized the transfer of the property in accordance with Marion's intention for the property to eventually become parkland.

Morris County

CAMPBELL

3 acres, Chester Township

Former staff member Eleanor Campbell-Swank donated her home on 3+ acres in Chester Township in May 2020 with the intent that New Jersey Conservation sell the property and use the proceeds to further its land-saving mission. The house was sold three months later and part of the proceeds were used to help acquire the 68-acre Turnquist property in Tewksbury Township.

Ocean County

BARRON ESTATE, DECICCO, TERRY

0.5 acres, Lacey Township

The donation of these small, undeveloped parcels expands the nearly 4,000-acre Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River Mountain and are part of an unbuilt subdivision dating back to the early 20th century. The area is a mix of pine/oak uplands, pitch pine lowlands, and cedar swamps. Ownership enables New Jersey Conservation Foundation to better manage and protect natural resources.

Salem County

DUFFY FARM 1 & 2

26 & 58 acres, Mannington Township

The Duffy family wanted to preserve their family's farming heritage, and New Jersey Conservation Foundation helped them preserve these outstanding farms. This is New Jersey Conservation's first project supporting Mannington Township's newly implemented farmland preservation plan. Abutting a State Wildlife Management Area, these preserved farms also protect riparian forests and two tributary streams within the Lower Salem River Watershed.

LEONE

59 acres, Pilesgrove Township

This grain and vegetable farm sits in an agricultural grassland complex where New Jersey Conservation Foundation has helped preserve over 2,300 acres. We were able to help Pilesgrove Township preserve the Leone farm, thanks to a grant from the 1772 Foundation.



Wentzell Farm, Pilesgrove Township



Somerset County

RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE ROAD FARM

49 acres, Bedminster Township

The 49-acre farm, located at the northwest intersection of Interstate 78 and Rattlesnake Bridge Road, is surrounded by preserved open space and farmland and has frontage along the Lamington River. More than half of the farm's soils are "prime" or "statewide important," the two highest quality classifications for crop production. New Jersey Conservation acquired the property in December 2019 and simultaneously sold a farmland easement to the Lamington Conservancy to preclude future development. In 2020, New Jersey Conservation resold the property to a local farmer. Proceeds from the sale covered acquisition costs and provided additional funds for future preservation projects.



Warren County

HART FARM 1 & 2

122 & 265 acres, Franklin Township

New Jersey Conservation Foundation worked with the owners and Warren County to help ensure permanent preservation of the 388-acre Hart Farm, contributing to an agricultural belt with nearly 750 contiguous acres of permanently protected land. The property has been farmed by the same family for three generations, and is 70 percent "prime soils" and "soils of statewide importance," the two highest classifications for crop production. The main stem of the Pohatcong Creek, a pristine waterway, runs through the center of the property.

MORDA

84 acres, Pilesgrove Township

The Morda farm is in a historic agricultural neighborhood called Seven Stars, named after a Revolutionary War-era tavern that still stands today and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Like the nearby Leone and Westwood Knolls farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation, the Morda farm was once the site of an approved housing subdivision. Preservation of the Morda farm allowed the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State Agriculture Development Committee to establish a conservation plan to address longstanding erosion issues, protecting soil and water resources.

PARAVE

59 acres, Alloway Township

New Jersey Conservation Foundation acquired an agricultural easement on the Parave family farm and retired the development rights. This grain and livestock farm sits near the Burden Hill Forest; owners Jim and Elicia Parave have long worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to make sure their farming practices protect soil, water and wildlife resources. Preservation has sealed their legacy as exceptional stewards of the land.

WENTZELL

21 acres, Pilesgrove Township

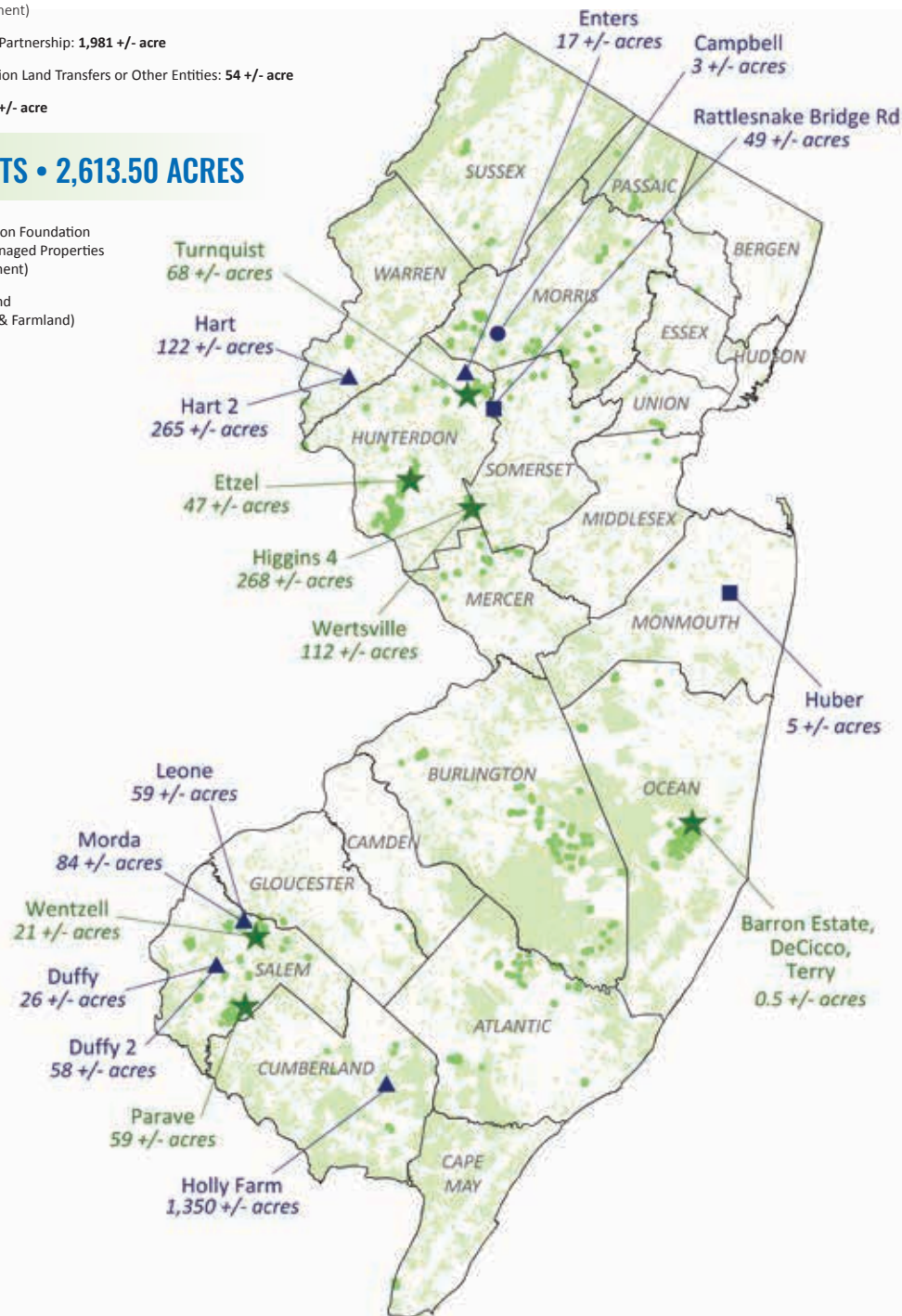
New Jersey Conservation stepped in to purchase an easement on this scenic farm along busy U.S. Route 40, where local zoning had limited the opportunities for farmland preservation. The Wentzell farm has excellent soils and is contiguous to other preserved farms. This is one of three Wentzell family farms New Jersey Conservation is helping to preserve.

- ★ NJ Conservation Owned: 575.50 +/- acre
(Fee or Easement)
- ▲ Preserved in Partnership: 1,981 +/- acre
- NJ Conservation Land Transfers or Other Entities: 54 +/- acre
- Tradeland: 3 +/- acre

20 PROJECTS • 2,613.50 ACRES

- NJ Conservation Foundation
Owned & Managed Properties
(Fee or Easement)

Preserved Land
(Open Space & Farmland)



Etzel, Raritan Township

2020 PUBLIC FUNDING PARTNERS

Alloway Township
 Bedminster Township
 East Amwell Township
 Hunterdon County
 NJ Water Supply Authority
 NJDEP Green Acres Program
 NJDEP Office of Natural Resource Restoration (ONRR)
 Pilesgrove Township
 Raritan Township
 Salem County
 Somerset County
 State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)
 Tewksbury Township
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Celebrating the full, permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in August 2020.

From left to right: Kimberly Witt, Mid Atlantic Policy Manager, Appalachian Mountain Club; Jo Schloeder, Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ); Michael Horne, Project Leader and biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife; Sally Rubin, Executive Director, Great Swamp Watershed Association; Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ); Michele Byers, Executive Director, NJ Conservation and Amy Hansen, Policy Analyst, NJ Conservation,

PENNEAST

We continued our multi-year effort to oppose the unneeded PennEast fossil fuel gas pipeline. After a lower court granted PennEast the right to condemn private and public lands, we joined the New Jersey Attorney General's office in a successful appeal to the Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals overturning PennEast's right to take the State's lands without its consent. More than 40 properties preserved by the State, including land owned by NJ Conservation, were at stake in the decision, which PennEast then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a 5-4 narrow decision in June 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that PennEast does have the authority to condemn State conservation lands, including lands protected by NJ Conservation Foundation. This marks the first time we have been involved in a case before the Supreme Court. Our fight to stop PennEast continues, with state and regional agency permits still outstanding and other legal actions underway.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FULLY AND PERMANENTLY FUNDED

Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and Congressman Chris Smith's Deputy Chief of Staff, Jo Schloeder, spoke at a press event last fall to celebrate the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. The Act permanently guarantees the full \$900 million a year for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which has funded additions to all five of New Jersey's National Wildlife Refuges, trails along the Delaware River backchannel in Camden Waterfront Park, revitalization of Jesse Allen Park in Newark and much more. NJ Conservation and our partners worked for many years to ensure LWCF's continued success, an effort supported by the entire New Jersey Congressional delegation.

HOLLY FARM PRESERVED

The 1,300-acre Holly Farm in Millville, an ecologically rich forest between the Manumuskin River and Menantico Creek in the Delaware Bay Watershed, was finally preserved after nearly 30 years of advocacy. The property, purchased by the State Green Acres Program, contains more rare species than any other upland forested site in southern New Jersey. We advocated alongside our partners—Citizens United to Protect the Maurice

River, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, New Jersey Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and other environmental advocates and citizen groups—to secure the protection of this forested treasure, which will be managed by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY POLICY

We advocated for state climate policy that includes the role that forests, farms and wetlands can play in sequestering carbon through development of a Natural and Working Lands Strategy. We joined the steering committee of the NJ Climate Change Alliance and began co-chairing a new work group of the Alliance focused on land sequestration strategies. We provided input to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and update land-use regulations to account for the impacts of climate change. We provided technical expertise to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to guide the development of a new, comprehensive Energy Master Plan to achieve 100 percent clean energy by 2050. As part of our advocacy for appropriate siting of solar energy projects, we opposed an 800-acre solar development proposal on prime farmland that had been prioritized for preservation in Salem County.

FORESTS

We continued to work with many government and nonprofit partners to advocate for the protection of mature, carbon and biodiversity rich forests in the New Jersey Highlands. We explored strategies to enhance carbon stored in deciduous forests, and studied improved prescribed burning and other methods to defend the carbon stored in Pine Barrens forests from being emitted during intense, uncontrollable wildfires.

RARE FLORA AND FAUNA

In partnership with Duke Farms, we successfully planted Pickering's morning glory, Pine Barrens gentian and sickle-leaf golden aster at the Franklin Parker Preserve. We continued to research rare reptiles like northern pine snakes, corn snakes, king snakes, timber rattlesnakes, and box turtles in cooperation with the Pinelands Commission, Herpetological Associates and Rutgers University. Working with the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, we helped manage habitat for rare snakes and plants in Wharton and Brendan Byrne State Forests.

STAFF

Michele S. Byers, *Executive Director*
Adriana Amador-Chacon, *Camden Fellow*
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*
Logan Davis, *Agricultural Land Steward*
Beth Davisson, *Project Manager, Black River Greenway*
Justin Dennis, *Urban Parks Manager*
Emile DeVito, *Ph.D, Manager of Science & Stewardship*
Robert Ferber, *Regional Manager, Delaware Bay Watershed*
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*
Stephanie Kreiser, *Assistant Director, South Jersey*
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*
Timothy Morris, *Director of Stewardship*
Marie Newell, *Project Coordinator, Acquisition*
Tanya Nolte, *GIS Manager*
Rudisha Okezie, *Outreach Manager, Camden Parks & Greenways*
Sandy Stuart Perry, *Staff Writer*
Karen Richards, *CPA, Director of Finance & Administration*
Heidi Marie Roldan, *Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager*
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*

2020 INTERNS

Kelsey Mattison
*Rutgers Environmental Steward
Engagement project in Camden*

Emma Palmer
*Colgate University
Rally intern; Stewardship projects*

Lynn Cremona
*Rutgers Environmental Steward
Franklin Parker Preserve Plant
Index*

Miranda Jakubek
*Harvard University
Babbott intern
Tree canopy project in Camden
using GIS*

Gabrielle Rosenthal
*Rutgers University
Policy intern
Literature review of research
related to forest management
and carbon storage*

Veronica Rezende
*Stockton University
Garden Club Intern
Stewardship at Apshaw
Preserve*

Eastern box turtle



Grant Awards

Since its inception in 1989, the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants Program, previously administered by Conservation Resources Inc., has awarded more than \$1,830,146 for 494 nonprofit conservation projects throughout the Garden State. Funding for the 2020 grants was provided by the Victoria Foundation.

NJ Highlands Coalition & Turtle Clan
at Munsee Farm



In 2020, New Jersey Conservation Foundation embarked on an exciting new initiative. Inspired by the national conversation about race and equity, we directed 100% of the 2020 Franklin Parker Community Conservation Grants to support organizations working to address environmental challenges and improve quality of life in communities of color.

Safe and accessible outdoor spaces, access to fresh local food, clean water, and clean air are essential to the health of every New Jersey community. Unfortunately, communities of color throughout New Jersey disproportionately suffer from air and water pollution and too often lack equitable access to greenspaces and community gardens.

We are grateful to the Victoria Foundation for their support and partnership in providing the funding for this year's grants, and to New Jersey's conservation community for persevering during this challenging year and working so hard for equitable access to nature and a healthy environment.



2020 FRANKLIN PARKER COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GRANTS

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY - \$1,910

Virtual SeaQuest – Camden

“Virtual SeaQuest – Camden” is a virtual supplemental marine science education program for students at the UrbanPromise school with an elevated interest in the marine science and environmental fields.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY - \$3,500

“Guardians of the Green” Initiative

The project educated young people on the environment around them, including the open space, forests and waterways of Cumberland County.

CAMDEN LUTHERAN HOUSING, INC. (CLHI) - \$4,000

“Blight to Bright – Transforming Abandoned Places to Green Spaces”

Camden Lutheran Housing worked to secure vacant lots in North Camden – increasing access to safe, healthy green space – while beautifying publicly accessible spaces through urban horticulture and art installations.



FOODSHED ALLIANCE - \$2,500

Affordable Farming Opportunities for Communities of Color on Preserved Farmland

The project increased the number of farmers of color operating organic farm businesses by providing affordable long-term leases on preserved farmland.

FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE - \$3,000

FoHVOS Avian Tracking Internship

The internship provided 15 students from communities of color with an introduction to local avian diets, nesting and incubation habits, bird banding and migration. In addition to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, the interns cultivated contacts with conservation professionals, discussed green job prospects, and built resumes for future job opportunities in conservation.

GROW IT GREEN MORRISTOWN - \$3,920

Teaching about Regenerative Agriculture

The grant expanded knowledge of regenerative agriculture and helped foster a more equitable food system by creating a new paid apprenticeship program at The Urban Farm to provide opportunities for two young applicants from diverse backgrounds to learn about farming utilizing sustainable methods and inspiring new innovative growing methods in an urban setting.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION - \$3,000

Turtle Clan of the Ramapo Tribe promotes traditional farming on newly-leased Munsee Farm at Muckshaw Preserve

The project supported teaching and interpretation by the Turtle Clan at its 9-acre Munsee Farm, where they are growing traditional foods and medicinal plants, regaining tribal knowledge and values, fostering self-sufficiency, and encouraging food security and environmentally sound practices.

RIDGE AND VALLEY CONSERVANCY - \$1,975

Munsee Three Sisters Medicinal Farm Fencing Project

This project helped fund the purchase and installation of deer fencing around the Munsee Three Sisters Medicinal Farm project at the Ridge and Valley Conservancy's Muckshaw Farm (a part of the Foodshed Alliance's Sustainable Agriculture Enterprise (SAGe) program) in order to increase crop yield by at least 40%.

STOUTSBURG SOURLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM - \$2,200

Cultural and Natural History in the Sourlands

This project engaged audiences by preparing interpretive signs, with video links, at African American history sites in the Sourlands, and by providing educational experiences at these sites, focused on the symbiotic relationship between the heritage of the African American community in the Sourlands and the unique ecology of the region.

TEANECK CREEK CONSERVANCY - \$4,000

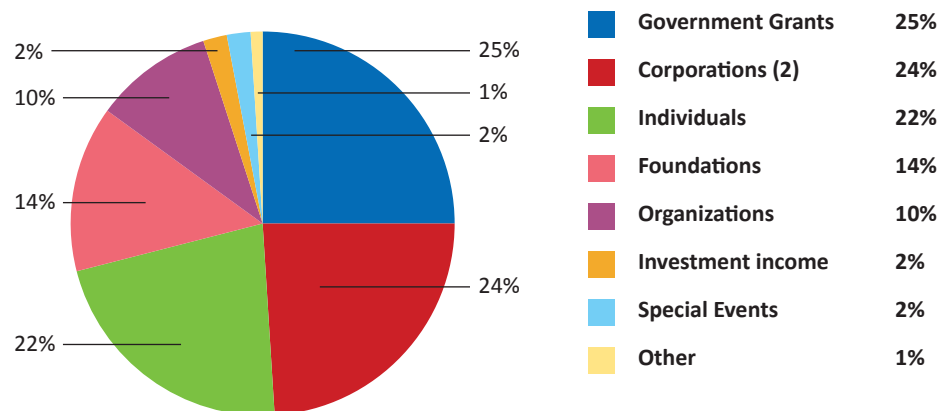
Racial Antibias Training for NJ Environmental Centers

The grant engaged local New Jersey nature centers in racial antibias training in order to create an understanding of systemic racism and provided their staff and board the resources to create equitable and inclusive natural spaces for people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and creeds to enjoy, experience, and learn.

Thanks to Victoria Foundation for funding the 2020 Franklin Parker Grant Program.

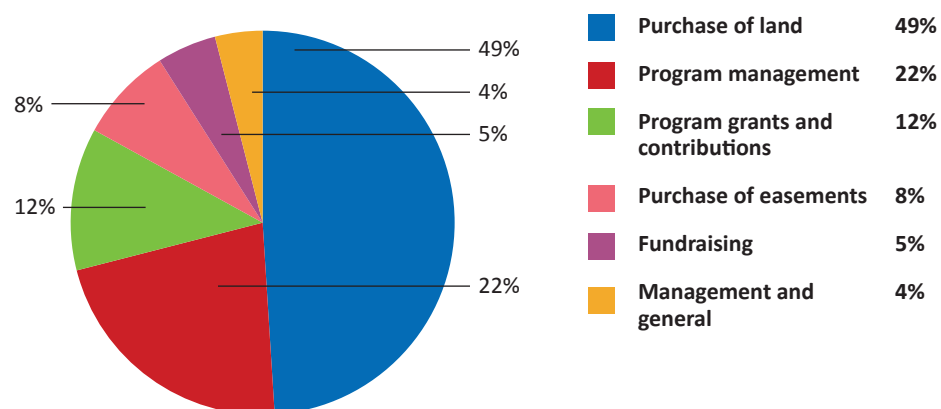
Support and Revenue

\$11,678,784*



Expenses and Land Purchase

\$12,314,500*



Assets

	December 31 2020 (1)	December 31 2019 (1)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,430,962	\$2,185,501
Investments	16,282,378	14,209,019
Unconditional Promises to Give, net	283,580	268,598
Beneficial Interest in Split Interest Agreements	557,548	537,422
Land, Buildings and Easements	40,600,798	38,083,296
Other Assets	200,638	182,826
Total Assets	\$59,355,904	\$55,466,662

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and Accrued Expenses	\$265,602	\$291,307
	-	-
Total Liabilities	265,602	291,307

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	53,080,069	48,398,058
With donor restrictions	6,010,233	6,777,297
Total Net Assets	59,090,302	55,175,335
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$59,355,904	\$55,466,662

*Unaudited financial information

(1) Extracted from the December 31, 2020 audited financial statements.

(2) Corporate funding includes funds provided in accordance with a NJDEP Natural Resource Damages settlement and was used to purchase land.

To receive a copy of the complete audited financial statements, please send a request to info@njconservation.org

LEAVE A LEGACY for Future Generations

By becoming a member of the Red Oak Society, you can demonstrate a commitment to preserving and protecting New Jersey land.

An anonymous couple have generously created a Bequest Challenge to support land preservation. With their creative donor challenge, this couple will jointly donate \$500 for each bequest, new or re-affirmed, up to \$30,000 – that's 60 commitments! All estate plan gifts qualify for this match.

Planned gifts provide the financial resources needed to acquire threatened land and maintain long-term stewardship responsibility. The Bequest Challenge ensures that your legacy gift goes even further, with a gift of support today!

To be a part of this generous challenge and become a member of the Red Oak Society, please let us know that you wish to support New Jersey Conservation Foundation's mission with a planned gift.

For more information, call 908-997-0727 or email info@njconservation.org.



HOW IT WORKS

Include NJ Conservation Foundation in your estate plans.

Let us know your intent by calling 908-997-0727 or emailing info@njconservation.org

The anonymous couple will donate \$500 today in recognition of your intent!

MEMBERS OF THE RED OAK SOCIETY

Anonymous Members
Fredrick A. Allis*
Evelyn Arcuni*
Carl L. Austin, Sr.*
Edward F. Babbott*
Ira H. Beckman*
Chris and James
Besanceney
Louis C. Bodenheimer*
Andrea Bonette
Louise Bossert*
JoAnn Bowman
Rose Bracco*
Zella Brady*
Jennifer Bryson
C. Austin Buck*
Ann H. Bumsted*
Michele S. Byers
Sylvia S. Campbell*
Ogden B. Carter*
Nancy Castleman*
Catherine A. M.
Cavanaugh*
Sophia Chroscinski*
Tillie Chwat*
Jack R. Cimprich
Erica Colace
Francis and Elizabeth
Coles*
Beryl Robichaud Collins*
Jean K Colvin*
Warren P. Cooper*
Mary Lou Curran*
William D. Dana*
Rev. Julia S. Dawson
Michael Dawson and
Robert Tomaselli
Lillie R. DeBevoise*
William D. deCamp*
Hugo and Margaret
deNeufville*
Dr. Rosina B. and Richard
Dixon
Joseph Dlugach*
Nelson C. Doland, Jr.*
Cyril dos Passos*
Ann O. Edison*
Theodore M. Edison*
Frank Eggert*
Richard W. Elbersen*
Charles and Eleanor Engel
Nicholas and Eleanor
English*

Walter Brooks and Dorothy
Stewart Evert*
Sarah P. Fiske*
Elizabeth Ernst Fosbinder*
Barbara Galli*
Elizabeth K. Gardner*
Margaret Gardner*
Joan C. Gilson
Ruth Gleason*
Alfred R. Gnam*
Elsie B. Grove*
Stephen C. Gruber
Eleanor Gural*
Thomas B. and Archer
Harvey
Nora E.J. Hayes
Elizabeth D. Healy
Harold Healy*
John S. Hirschhoff*
Roberta F. Holden*
Caroline P. Huber*
Donald and Beverley
Jones*
Elizabeth S. Jordan*
John and Susan Karlin*
Evangeline MacKay H.
Keasbey*
Larry and Barbara Keller*
Robert W. Kent*
Samuel W. Lambert
Frances E. Land*
Eleanor R. Lawrence*
Vera Lazar
Valerie Ann Leeds
Larrabee C. Lillie*
Kenneth W. Lloyd*
Donald MacGuigan*
Kenneth L. MacRitchie
Wendy Mager and Eric
Monberg
Ellen McConnell
Robert McLean*
Hon. Joseph H. Metelski
Kristina Miller
Winifred C. Millikin*
Gordon A. Millsbaugh, Jr.*
Eric Monberg and Wendy
Mager
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Mary W.T. Moore*
Edward Mullen*
Nancy Jeffries and Kurt
Munkacsi

Janet and Daniel E.
Murnick
Sigrid S. Nagle*
The Hon. Maureen Ogden
Elizabeth C. Ohly*
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Harry F. Peters, Jr.*
Virginia Pierson
Robert Pierson*
Elizabeth Potter*
Dr. James A. Quinn
Joann S. Ramos
Barbara Ray*
Elizabeth B. Reed
L. Keith and Lisa Reed
Allen Reese and Joseph M.
Hengel
Timothy C. Riegert
William N. Rogers
Gregory Romano
Robert C. Ross
David Rutherford*
Anna L. Salvato*
Walter and Patricia
Savage*
Betsy J. Schnorr
Diane P. Schwarz*
Joan S. and deLacy H.
Seabrook*
Betsy B. Shirley*
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E. Esty and Helen Stowell*
Ted and Penny Thomas
Mark Thomas
Althea Thornton*
Benjamin W. Tucker, Jr.*
Mary Upmeyer*
Artemis Vardakis*
Nan Hunter Walnut*
Ruth Creighton Webster*
Catherine Welsh*
Dorothy Moran Werner*
Clarissa Willemsen
Muriel Williams*
Virginia T. Williams*
Louise Currey Wilson
William T. Wyman
Esther Yanai*
Robert L. Zion

*denotes deceased members



New Jersey Conservation
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Apshawa Preserve - Passaic County

“Art is born of the observation and investigation of nature” - CICERO