

New Jersey Conservation



4 **FORESTS FOR ALL**
How do New Jersey's forests make our lives better?
Let us count the many ways!

10 **PRESERVING PRINCETON**
The town's largest undeveloped property, more than 150 forested
acres, is now permanently protected.

13 **PINE BARRENS GIFT**
Thanks to a family's generosity, the Franklin Parker Preserve
expanded by 21 acres.



New Jersey Conservation
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ABOUT THE COVER

Commissioned by New Jersey Conservation Foundation for a 1990s nature curriculum in schools, this artwork depicts the diverse flora and fauna of northern deciduous forests. How many species can you identify?



From Our Co-Executive Directors

Tom Gilbert | Alison Mitchell | Jay Watson

Dear friends,

"We see a New Jersey with thriving parklands, trails, meadows, farms and community gardens preserved in every corner of the state. Where vital water supplies are protected by forests in the Pinelands and Highlands. Where everyone can walk ten minutes from their front door to a natural area, trail or park. Where all residents can enjoy nature and the outdoors for their health, well-being and recreation. Where everyone has access to healthy food from local farms. Where New Jersey citizens are fully engaged in loving parks, farms, trails, wildlife and nature.

"And, critically, we see a successful response to climate change where New Jersey is a leader in adopting clean energy and using natural solutions to adapt to a dramatically changing climate."

This summary from New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Strategic Plan encapsulates our vision for the future. Our work every day is aimed at moving New Jersey closer to these goals!

One key part of our work involves protecting and restoring New Jersey's forests. In this newsletter, beginning on page 4, you'll read about the many eco-services provided by trees and forests – including filtering impurities from air and drinking water – and how they absorb and store carbon to provide a natural solution to climate change. You'll even hear about how New Jersey Conservation Foundation is helping one of our partner groups build urban "microforests" on tiny lots to improve the quality of life in cities.

The new leadership team at New Jersey Conservation Foundation is excited about the opportunities we have to move this vision forward, following the retirement of Michele S. Byers, who served as executive director since 1999 and a staff member since 1982.

Having three co-executive directors sharing the responsibility of carrying out our vision is expanding our reach and impact by drawing upon our different strengths and areas of expertise.

The three of us have a combined 100 years of experience in land preservation, urban action, non-profit management and advocacy, and are totally committed to collaborative and cooperative decision making.

The new leadership model is working out well with the support of the loyal and dedicated staff. But this work is a team effort. One constant at New Jersey Conservation Foundation has been our amazing members and friends. We want to THANK YOU for your unwavering belief in the mission of preserving land and natural resources for the benefit of all, and your generous support throughout the years. This work truly could not happen without you!

With huge appreciation,



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.

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, New Jersey 07931.



Right: Contributing artists Katrina Eugenia - who also curated the show -
and Matt Ahmer celebrating the opening with family.
Center Artwork by: Katrina Eugenia
Lower Left Artwork by: Mycha Bueché



COMMON GROUND

In April, a group of New Jersey-based artists displayed their works at Fork Hill Kitchen in Union City as a benefit for New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The show, entitled "Common Ground," included contemporary paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculptures, exploring the contrasting ways these artists approach nature as symbolism.

Thank you to Fork Hill Kitchen and all the artists for their incredible generosity!

Please consider following them on Instagram:

Fork Hill Kitchen: @forkhillkitchen

Mycha Bueché: @artbymycha

Elaine Shor: @elaineshor20

Alex Gulino: @starletlexy

Ben Fine: @benfinepainting

Matt Ahmer: @mahmer23

Jill Scipione: @jillscipione

Katrina Eugenia: @katrinaeugenia





**HOW DO WE
LOVE TREES?**




“

Gold is a luxury. Trees are necessities. Man can live and thrive without gold, but we cannot survive without trees.”

- PAUL BAMIKOLE
NIGERIAN POET AND TEACHER

A photograph of a dense forest with many tall, thin, vertical tree trunks. The ground is covered in green undergrowth and fallen leaves. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the forest floor.

Let us count the ways!

A close-up photograph of a small, orange, bell-shaped mushroom growing from a mossy surface. The mushroom has a thin, light-colored stem. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more moss and foliage.

It would be impossible to praise too lavishly the services provided by trees and forests.

Trees create structural diversity, a food web, and diverse microclimates for thousands of plant, animal, fungal, and microbial species in every patch of forest, from deep within the soil to the top of the canopy. Trees filter impurities from drinking water, and soak up stormwater to help control flooding. Through photosynthesis, they absorb harmful atmospheric carbon dioxide to build sugar, starch, and wood and emit oxygen, making them a powerful ally in the fight against climate change. They provide shade in summer and have a cooling effect on surrounding air temperatures. In cities and suburbs, they help muffle noise.

Beyond their ecological benefits, trees boost our physical, mental and spiritual health. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Japanese health practice of “forest bathing” was gaining popularity. Once the pandemic lockdowns hit in 2020, even more people turned to forests for recreation and the solace of connecting with nature.

New Jersey is filled with forests great and small. The largest include the vast Pine Barrens wilderness, which covers over a million acres, and the deciduous forests of the state’s mountainous northwestern region. The smallest forests include urban “microforests” not much larger than a cluster of parking spaces.



MIDDLE-AGED FORESTS

European settlers arriving in New Jersey during the colonial era found vast primeval forests filled with centuries-old trees. But it wasn’t long before nearly all of the state’s virgin forests were cleared for agriculture, timber and firewood. Photos and surveys of New Jersey landscapes during the post-Civil War years show few forests in existence.

The early 1900s brought a population shift to New Jersey, as many families moved from rural to urban areas. Forests rebounded on “post-agricultural” land over the past century and now cover about 42 percent of New Jersey, or 2 million acres. Over 60 percent of New Jersey’s forests are on public lands.

Because of the ability of forests to store carbon, the State of New Jersey is now looking toward “natural and working lands” as a key part of its strategy to address climate change. The goal is not only to prevent the loss of carbon that is currently stored in forests and other lands, but to increase carbon storage in order to help meet our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

While all trees sequester carbon, scientific studies show that mature forests do it best. One study in the Northeast found that forests over 170 years old supported the highest levels of carbon storage from additional growth of woody tissue in roots, trunks, and branches, and species richness of plants, animal, and fungi.

“Most New Jersey deciduous forest canopies are now approaching 150 years old and are really only middle-aged, rather than over-mature or declining as the timber industry often claims,” said Dr. Emile DeVito, New Jersey Conservation Foundation’s staff ecologist. “The good news is that New Jersey’s deciduous forests will mature and store carbon at rapid rates for a long time to come – if we let them.”

“

For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.”

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER



FOREST THREATS

But New Jersey's forests face many threats, including overabundant deer, invasive plant species, alien insect pests, development and fragmentation, and inappropriate commercial logging.

How to protect New Jersey's public forests - especially those sequestering the most carbon - was the topic of a recent forum organized by the New Jersey Highlands Coalition.

Ecologist Leslie Sauer, author of *The Once and Future Forest*, noted that mature, intact forests are far more valuable for carbon sequestration and other ecological services than they are for logging.

Sauer and many other ecologists favor "proforestation" - leaving maturing forests in their natural state without active management - to reach their highest potential for carbon storage. As part of its climate change policy, she said, New Jersey should identify areas of intact, maturing forests on public lands and make proforestation the management priority.

STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE FORMED

State Senator Bob Smith, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, who spoke at the Highlands Coalition forum, agreed that state policy needs to be revised to give a higher standard of protection to publicly-owned forests.

One reason the Earth's climate is warming so quickly, he said, is because "we've been attacking forests all over the world. We're going the wrong way, worldwide, on forests."

In March, Smith announced the formation of a Forest Stewardship Task Force to seek consensus and prepare a report on actions needed to better protect and manage New Jersey's public forestlands.

The task force's co-chairs are Tom Gilbert, co-executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation; Eileen Murphy, vice president of government relations for the New Jersey Audubon Society; Andy Bennett, board member of the New Jersey Forestry Association; and Anjuli Ramos, chapter director of the NJ Sierra Club.

Meetings to get input from the public and interested parties are planned throughout the year with a goal of providing recommendations to the State Legislature by December.

URBAN GREENING

Meanwhile, efforts to share the benefits of trees throughout the nation's most urbanized state are picking up steam. Many cities in New Jersey are planting shade trees along bare streets to improve the environment and the public's quality of life.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recently awarded 38 grants totaling \$1.3 million to

It's hard to overstate how serious the issue of climate change is. The bottom line is that nothing sequesters carbon better than a forest. We need to manage our forests as carbon reserves."

- LESLIE SAUER

promote urban and community trees and forests throughout New Jersey. The grants support the state's environmental justice initiatives, with 75 percent of the funds going to municipalities with at least one overburdened community.

"Urban trees and forests are vitally important for the many benefits they provide to clean our air and water, and to provide cool shade from increasingly warm temperatures," said NJDEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette. "Trees are also part of our daily lives. They uplift people, beautify neighborhoods, stand witness to important moments and improve communities."

Meredith Brown, coordinator of the



Upper photo: John Evangelista, Director of Operations for Groundwork Elizabeth, helps plant trees in a new microforest with Tenisha Malcolm, Director of Cities Programs for The Nature Conservancy.

Lower photo: Stephanie Kreiser, right, Director of New Jersey Conservation's land program in South Jersey, joins volunteers from American Water and AmeriCorps in planting trees at Gateway Park in Camden.

Urban Airshed Reforestation Program of the New Jersey Tree Foundation, has seen firsthand the difference trees make.

After a tree planting, she said, "the impacts are almost immediate. You can see this pop of greenery in the neighborhood. As the trees grow, they're going to shade the sidewalk, absorb stormwater, clean up the air and soften the landscape." Tree-lined streets also foster neighborhood pride and can entice residents to get outside and exercise.

ELIZABETH MICROFOREST

Urban greening can also come in the form of creating microforests, tiny parcels of land densely packed with native trees and shrubs.

With the help of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the nonprofit Groundwork Elizabeth recently completed a pilot microforest project on a 30-by-50-foot lot behind the Elmora Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library.

Jonathan Phillips, executive director of Groundwork Elizabeth, said the goal is to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands and local flooding. "Heat islands can be three, five or even 10 degrees hotter than surrounding neighborhoods," he noted. And floods can be deadly, as Hurricane Ida proved in New Jersey last September.

The microforest project was funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of New Jersey. Before planting began, contaminated soil was removed from the site and replaced with clean topsoil. Dr. DeVito helped choose the optimum mix of native plants. In December, Groundwork Elizabeth volunteers and staff members planted 200 trees and shrubs, ranging from saplings to older trees 15 feet tall. The plantings survived the winter and are all breaking bud with the promise of spring!

The new microforest was enthusiastically received by the community. "Everyone who sees it says, Oh, I want one," said Phillips.

Groundwork Elizabeth hopes to oblige. Phillips already has several sites in mind that would be ideal for future microforests. "It's a great investment," he said. "I see us doing this in other hot and flooded neighborhoods in Elizabeth and elsewhere in Union County."

New Jersey Conservation is working with local partner groups to plan microforest projects in other cities, and to plant street trees in Camden and Trenton, so that all New Jerseyans can enjoy the many benefits that trees provide.



Michele S. Byers Legacy Fund Nears Initial Goal!!

She was fresh out of college and landed as an intern for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, keeping watch over the vast Pine Barrens. In 1982, Michele Byers did not suspect that she would stay for decades and one day lead the organization - one of the premier land preservation groups in the country. Read more about Michele's incredible accomplishments on page 18.



Michele in 1985 in front of an abandoned cranberry packing house in Whitesbog Village in the Pine Barrens; photo by Michael Baytoff.

We are nearing the goal to raise five million dollars to support the initiatives closest to Michele's heart, including:

- Accelerating the protection of additional lands for plants and wildlife, a healthy water and local food supply, and species adaptation and migration in the face of climate change. Preserved lands provide all New Jerseyans with access to parks and trails, and a high quality of life with "nature in every neighborhood."
- Addressing the urgent climate crisis through sound policy. A new Policy Center will use data and sound science to develop policies related to natural climate solutions, clean energy, natural resource protection and environmental quality.
- Expanding our reach and addressing historic inequities by diversifying programs to engage and empower a new generation of conservation leaders to ensure equitable access to nature and to fresh, healthy, local foods, particularly in communities of color.

THANK YOU to the following friends and supporters that have made a gift to the fund honoring Michele and her 40 years of service to New Jersey Conservation Foundation. (Contributions received as of March 31, 2022)

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**IT'S NOT
TOO LATE!**

If you are interested in making a special, one-time gift honoring Michele, please return the enclosed envelope with "Legacy Fund" in the memo line or contact Alison Mitchell (alison@njconservation.org, 908-997-0711) to arrange your gift.

Princeton's largest undeveloped property is protected

The largest remaining undeveloped property in Princeton – more than 150 acres of mature forest – is now permanently protected, thanks to a partnership among several government agencies and nonprofits, including New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

The 153-acre property on Province Line Road, in the town's northwest corner, was purchased for \$8.8 million from the Lanwin Development Corp. and the family of the late Bryce Thompson. It is now open to the public for passive recreation, including hiking, birding and nature observation.

"This incredible property provides habitat for endangered and threatened species, including the red shouldered hawk and barred owl, as well as songbirds, salamanders and other species whose numbers are in steep decline," said New Jersey Conservation Foundation co-executive director Jay Watson. "We're very pleased to provide both technical and financial support for this project."

The purchase is part of an initiative called "Princeton's Emerald Necklace" that seeks to connect preserved green spaces in the town and beyond.

The land is near several other preserved properties in the Princeton Ridge area, and provides a key link to open space in neighboring Montgomery Township.

The property is dominated by a mature oak, beech and hickory forest, and



contains wetlands. A development of large homes was previously approved on the land, despite local opposition. Approximately 4,000 trees would have been cut down on the site had the land not been preserved.

A partnership of organizations – led by the town of Princeton and including the Friends of Princeton Open Space, Ridgeview Conservancy, The Watershed

Institute, Mercer County, the state Green Acres Program and New Jersey Conservation Foundation – worked cooperatively on the acquisition. Nearly \$3 million in private donations were received.

The land is now jointly owned by Princeton, the Friends of Princeton Open Space, The Watershed Institute and the Ridgeview Conservancy.



2022

GAINING GROUND

10 Projects

Nov 2021 - March 2022

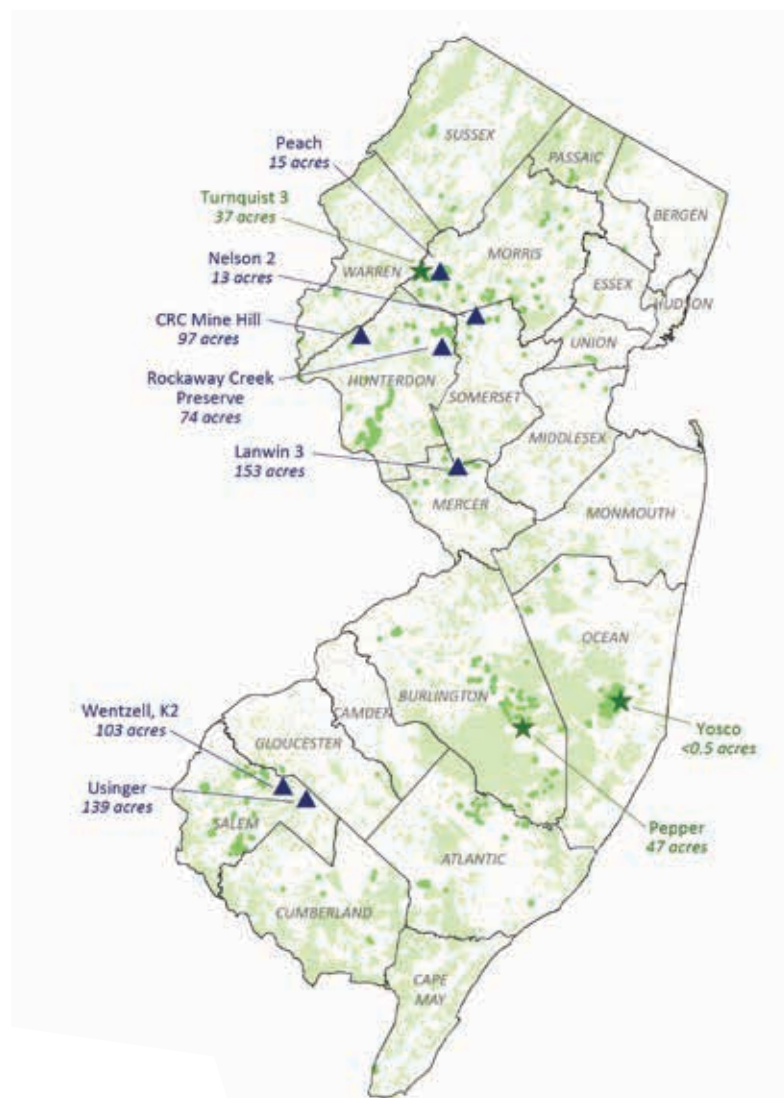
- ★ NJ Conservation Owned
Fee or Easement: 84.5 acres
- ▲ Preserved in Partnership: 594 acres

TOTAL: 678.5 acres

- NJ Conservation Foundation
Owned & Managed Properties
(Fee or Easement)
- Preserved Land
(Open Space & Farmland)

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved 678.5 acres from November 2021 through March 2022. 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!



It's easy to join New Jersey Conservation Foundation online - visit the website at www.njconservation.org

Become a Member Today!





75 ACRES protected along Rockaway Creek

In a win for the environment and clean water, a 75-acre wooded property along the Rockaway Creek in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, has been permanently preserved. It had been considered for both office and residential development since the 1980s.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased the property in February and immediately transferred the land to Hunterdon County to become part of its park system. Now known as the Rockaway Creek Preserve, the land will be kept in its natural state to protect water resources, safeguard wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for passive recreation like hiking and bird watching.

“We’re thrilled to permanently protect this property along the Rockaway Creek,” said Jay Watson, co-executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. “New Jersey Conservation Foundation has preserved land along the Rockaway Creek upstream of this property for our Hill & Dale Preserve, as well as farmland downstream. We’re grateful to our partners for making this acquisition possible.”

The new preserve is bounded on two sides by the Rockaway Creek, designated a “Category 1” stream because it supports trout, which require clean, cool water. It also includes a pond with a small stream flowing into the Rockaway Creek.

Because the property will remain in its natural state, a need no longer exists for a sewage treatment plant that would have discharged into the Rockaway Creek farther downstream.

Funding for the acquisition was provided by the New Jersey Highlands Council, with the New Jersey Green Acres Program and New Jersey Water Supply Authority contributing toward surveys, title work and closing costs.

“The New Jersey Highlands Council is very pleased to be a part of the preservation of this property,” said Lisa J. Plevin, the council’s executive director. “New Jersey Conservation Foundation did a tremendous job of working with the property owner and other partners to help ensure permanent protection of the abundant natural resources on this site, and future access for the public. We were very glad to bring federal Highlands Conservation Act funds to this project.”

“Hunterdon County is proud of the work New Jersey Conservation Foundation has done to preserve this important property along the Rockaway Creek in Tewksbury Township,” said Zach Rich, deputy director of the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners. “Being 75 forested acres and fronting on almost a half-mile of the Rockaway Creek, a C1 stream, seeing this land preserved thanks to the sourcing of grant dollars and funding by NJ Conservation is a win for both environmental protection and Hunterdon County residents.”



Photos courtesy of New Jersey Highlands Council

Family's generosity helps expand Pine Barrens preserve

Thanks to a family's generosity, New Jersey Conservation Foundation recently added 21 forested acres to the Franklin Parker Preserve in the heart of the Pine Barrens.

The family of the late Charles R. Cooper Jr. sold the forested wetlands just outside the village of Chatsworth to New Jersey Conservation for half of its fair market value. The land, which the family used for hunting and enjoying nature, is now part of New Jersey Conservation's largest preserve, which covers about 16 square miles.

"We're very grateful to the Cooper family for making this expansion of the Franklin Parker Preserve possible," said Stephanie Kreiser, director of New Jersey Conservation's land preservation program for South Jersey. "The Franklin Parker Preserve is an incredibly beautiful place, with a wide diversity of wildlife and over 20 miles of trails."

Mr. Cooper purchased the property with his father, Charles R. Cooper Sr., in 1965. Their original idea was to create a compound of houses for the extended family, including the senior Mr. Cooper's siblings. That vision never came to fruition, and the family left the land in its natural state for the next 56 years.

"It was so nice having such a huge piece of land where we could do outdoor activities," recalled Patricia Cooper Major, Mr. Cooper's daughter, who grew up with her siblings only a couple of miles away. "I can remember sledding, riding bikes, camping."

Mr. Cooper passed away six years ago, and his family opted to sell the property to New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

New Jersey Conservation secured \$50,000 in state Green Acres Program funding toward the purchase price but was unable to find a funding source for the remainder. Instead of walking away from the offer, the Cooper family decided to donate the balance of the land's value.

Patricia Major said she feels good about the decision: "It just feels right that others will be able to enjoy the land as well. I think it will be great for future generations."

The original section of the Franklin Parker Preserve, a former cranberry farm, was purchased by New Jersey Conservation Foundation in December 2003 after the owner decided he wanted it to be protected forever as a nature preserve.



Woods preserved near town center in Somerset County

Nearly 13 wooded acres near Peapack-Gladstone's municipal complex have been permanently preserved, protecting wildlife habitat and providing a new place for local residents to take walks and enjoy nature.

"It's a small piece, but it's an important piece in Peapack's effort to preserve the countryside around the core of the town," said Anne van den Bergh, a lifelong Peapack resident and vice president of nonprofit Lamington Conservancy. "It's one of the few secluded woodland places where people can walk so close to the center of town." Van den Bergh has fond memories of riding ponies through the property as a child.

The newly-preserved land is across the street from municipal ballfields and a short walk from the town's centerpiece, Liberty Park, with its scenic pond and resident swans. Existing trails and sidewalks connect it to town-owned open space nearby. And as one of few remaining large wooded tracts in Peapack-Gladstone, the property is also a gateway to the borough's farmland preservation target area.

"We are thrilled to obtain this property, which helps enhance our formal and informal trail system through the borough," said Mayor Greg Skinner. "It will enable our residents and visitors to continue enjoying outdoor activities throughout the borough."


In addition to its recreational benefits, the property was also considered a high priority for preservation because it recharges groundwater, safeguards water quality, and protects habitat for rare species. Among the threatened and endangered species seen on the property are barred owls, Indiana bats, veerys and bobcats.

The land was preserved by a partnership of Peapack-Gladstone Borough, the Lamington Conservancy, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, Somerset County and New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

The Lamington Conservancy acquired the land and simultaneously transferred it to Peapack-Gladstone to add to the town's recreation and open space inventory. Funding came from a Somerset County open space grant and the state Green Acres Program. New Jersey Conservation provided land protection expertise to facilitate the transactions.



Photo by Danny Barron



52 forested acres providing open space connections

Fifty-two wooded acres that will help connect public open space and serve as the entry point of a future trail system has been permanently preserved in Washington Township, Morris County.

In March, New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased 37 acres from Eric and Geraldine Turnquist, with plans to transfer the land to Washington Township. The property is located on the western slope of Schooley's Mountain and includes steep terrain.

The Turnquist property is near the recently-preserved 15-acre Peach property and another 91 forested acres owned by the township. Protected last fall with the assistance of New Jersey Conservation, the Peach property includes a high point with scenic winter views of the Musconetcong River valley.

The township is also hoping to preserve other nearby properties, with the goal of eventually having a nature preserve totaling over 200 acres open to the public for passive recreation.

"The Turnquist property is a beautiful parcel of oak, hickory and tulip forest, with headwaters streams that flow to the Musconetcong River, a federally-designated Wild and Scenic River," said Jay Watson, co-executive director of New Jersey Conservation.

Both properties are in the preservation area of the New Jersey Highlands and valuable for their ability to recharge groundwater supplies.

The Turnquist and Peach properties were ranked the highest priority for preservation by the state's Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ) project, which seeks to link wildlife habitat. The land supports habitat for many species, including barred owls, wood turtles and red-shouldered hawks.

The Turnquist property was acquired with funding from the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund and state Green Acres funds awarded to the nonprofit Washington Township Land Trust. The Peach property was purchased with Washington Township Open Space funds and a grant from the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund.

"It's important to create and maintain contiguous greenways for our preservation efforts to be meaningful," noted Morris County Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen.

"Morris County taxpayers overwhelmingly voted to create the Open Space Trust Fund nearly three decades ago to preserve our natural heritage because it goes to the heart of our quality of life here."

“ We look forward to seeing the land become a place where local residents can go to hike and enjoy nature.”

- JAY WATSON

thank you!

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges donors who made contributions between October 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. With your support, we preserve and protect New Jersey's lands.

New Members

(from October 1, 2021
through December 31, 2021)

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(from October 1, 2021
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Richard and Julia Allen
Philip D. and Elisabeth F. Allen
Karen Allen
George N. and Grania Allport
Merrick G. and Linny Andlinger
Arthur Kontos Foundation, Inc.
The Aspen Grove Foundation
Catherine Bacon
Christopher Barr and Patricia
Shanley
Joseph Basralian
Robert and Pamela Becker
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Cecilia Birge
W. M. and Barbara Blumenthal
The Brady Family Fund
Franta J. Broulik
Caroline and Peter Browne
Charitable Fund
Thomas A. and Barbara
Brunner
Patrick Brunetti
Jennifer Bryson
John A. and Jenifer N.
Burghardt
Michele S. Byers
Camden Lutheran Housing,
Inc.
Bradley M. Campbell and
Katherine Hackl
Lisa C. Caplan
Finn and Emily Caspersen
Catherine A.M. Cavanaugh
Revocable Trust

The Charles E. and Edna T.
Brundage Foundation
David L. Hansen and Ruth
Charnes
Theodore and Victory Chase
The Percy and Sally Chubb
Charitable Fund
Church & Dwight Co., Inc.
Jack R. Cimprich and Ronnie E.
Cimprich, VMD
Gary Hinesley and Maggie
Clare
C.D. and Tracey Clarke
Elliott Cohen
Donald R. Conklin
Gray Connaughton Family
Unni Cooper
Coughlin Harris Family Giving
Fund
Robert H. and Mary I.
Courtemanche
David B. Cronheim
Tracy Cruise and Scott Daal
CTW Foundation, Inc.
Cummings Giving Fund
Kate Curley
Thomas and Brenda Curnin
The Curtis W. McGraw
Foundation
Paul Dackow Giving Fund
John L. and Margo Dana
Andrew Dana
Lloyd and Sally Davis
Michael Dawson and Robert P.
Tomaselli
Linda de Castro
John P. de Neufville
The DeBevoise Calello Family
Fund
Alex Gibney and Anne M.
DeBevoise
William deCamp Jr. Fund of the
Community Foundation of
New Jersey
Winsor-Delap Family Fund
DiBianca Family Foundation
Richard and Rosina B. Dixon
John P. and Anne K. Duffy
The Duke Farms Foundation
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Lynn and Tom Ebeling
Estate of Antonio Elmaleh
Suzanne Engel
Ernest Christian Klipstein
Foundation
F. M. Kirby Foundation
Virginia Lamb

Sven Helmer and Rachel J.
Finkle
Clem and Joanna S. Fiori
Chana R. Fitton and William A.
Timpson
Fox Foundation
The Hon. Rodney P. and
Virginia Frelinghuysen
The Frelinghuysen Foundation
Friends of Michael Huber
Preserve Inc.
Peter L. and Jane M. Galetto
Garden Club of Princeton
Alexandra Gerry
James G. and Kathleen Gilbert
Curtis A. and Sophie S. Glover
Charles R. and Laurel M. Gould
Stephen C. Gruber
Mark Canright and Amy
Hansen
Susan Hansen
Thomas B. and Archer Harvey
Gates H. and Mary Ellen Haw
Healey Family Foundation
Helen & William Mazer
Foundation
Matthew A. Henrich
Richard W. and Catherine
Herbst
Elisabeth Hicks
Pamela and Howard Hirsch
The Howard Bayne Fund
Jeffrey M. and Dawn A. Howell
Notaboat Fund in memory of
Caroline and Michael Huber
James W. and Connie O.
Hughes
Robert and Florence Jennes
Peter W. Jewell
Carol Johnson
Joseph Z. Duke and Jennifer
Johnson
Dr. Stephanie B. Jones
Phillips Family Charitable Fund
The Hon. Thomas Kean
Kelly Family Charitable Fund
John L. and Karen Kemmerer
William T. Knox, IV
Dan and Gail Kopp
The Koven Foundation
Steven C. Kunder
Theresa J. Lanuto
Lanwin Development Corp
Robert A. Lee Lewis and Carla
L. Lewis Charitable Gift Fund
Joseph and Jennifer Lemond
Gary Len and Nell T. Jackson

Liebhaver/Cooke Giving Fund
Jeffrey and Anita H. Liebman
Edward Lloyd and Janine Bauer
The Losam Fund
James Lyons
Marty and Lisa MacCollum
Eric Monberg and Wendy
Mager
Maine Community Foundation
Alexandra A. Manning
Hella and Scott McVay Fund
of the Princeton Area
Community Foundation
Bruce R. and Linda B. Meier
The Hon. Joseph H. Metelski
Kenneth Meyers
Joan Millsbaugh
Vanessa F. Mitchell
David F. Moore
Meredith Moore and Steve
Rabbe
Kurt Munkacsi and Nancy
Jeffries
Nelson Obus and Eve Coulson
Ogden Family Fund of The
Summit Foundation
Dr. Oye and Judy Olukotun
Mrs. Langdon Palmer
Tari Pantaleo
Margaret H. Parker
Henry S. Patterson, III
David Rago and Suzanne
Perrault
Carol L. Pfeiffer
Teri Piancone
Kathryn A. Porter
Ramsay Leatherman Cloud
Fund
Estate of Elizabeth Brainard
Reed
L. Keith and Lisa H. Reed
Ingrid W. Reed
Archibald S. and Karen Reid
Timothy C. Riegert
Elizabeth Ritter
Anthony and Glorianne Robbi
Robert McLean Foundation
Trust
Ronald Berlin Architect, PC
Michael and Darby Rothpletz
Roxiticus Foundation
John L. and Monica Ryan
Sapoch Family Fund of the
Princeton Area Community
Foundation
Louisa B. Sargent
Leslie Jones Foundation

Douglas M. Schleifer and
Maureen M. Smyth
Robert and Elizabeth Schmid
Nancy Z. Schreyer
Jeffrey and Mary Louise Shafer
Fund
The Short Hills Garden Club
Silent Maid 1924
Ken Misiak and Sandra
Simpson
Arlene Spotnitz
Nancy L. Squier
Patricia Stanko
Stone Foundation of New
Jersey
Jacqueline Strigl
Eric E. and Patricia Sumner
Hilda Tauber Trust Estate
Christopher J. Teasdale
Mayor Paul H. Tomasko
Anne Troop
Douglas and Debby Trump
Union Foundation
Victoria Foundation, Inc.
Paul Von der Heyden
Mary Walter
Esther M. Warner
John and Debra Watson
James and Virginia Welch
Foundation
Heidi Wendel
Barry Weshnak
Joseph B. and Phoebe Wiley
Louise L. Wilkens
Daniel B. Wilkinson and
Katherine M. Dixon
The William Penn Foundation
Edith K. and Thomas Williams
Myra and Van Z. Williams, Jr.
Anne Williams
Currey Wilson Family Fund
William A. and Elizabeth W.
Wolfe
Bo Xing and Aili Liu
Lee and John Yeash
Beth Yingling
John and Nancy Yingling

Memorials

(from October 1, 2021
through December 31, 2021)

John E. Andrejewski
Diana Haywood
Candace Ashmun
Mark Huddell and
Kerry L. Miller
Edward Babbott
Margaret Babbott
Mom
Faith Brancato
Richardson Buist
Jean Buist Earle
William Campanelli
Eileen Walsh
Ogden Carter
Frances Carter
Catherine Cavanaugh
Alison E. Mitchell and Chris
Keep
Georgiana Henle Connor
Donna Connor
Dave Ferratti
Randy and Janet Santoro
Jessie Goehner
Janet Goehner-Jacobs
Grace and Jim Hand
Anne Forbes
The Hanssler Family
Ingeborg D. Bossert
Lawrence Johnson
Fran and Marie St. John
Joel Kazin
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kazin
Mary W.T. Moore
Chana R. Fitton and
William A. Timpson
Alison E. Mitchell and
Chris Keep
Tort, hiking buddy
Kristin Redmond
Eileen M. Shanley
Christopher Barr and
Patricia Shanley

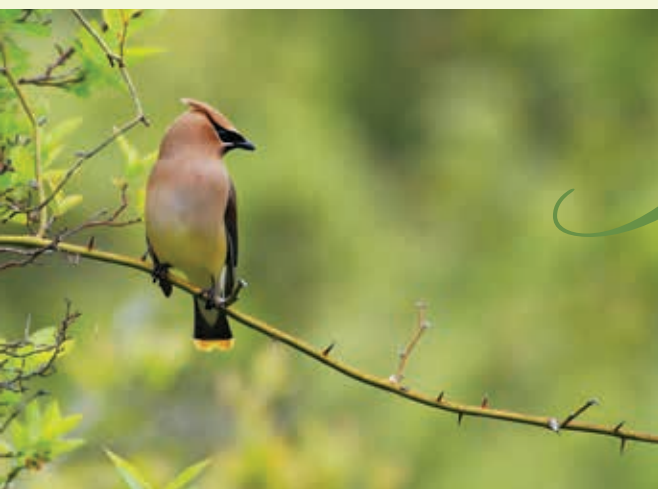
Arthur Spingarn
Roger and Joyce Spingarn
Edmund Stiles
Holly B. Muller
Anora Tracey
Jan Larsson
James Wyse
Thelma K. Achenbach
MaryJean Barnes
Rebecca Benghiat
Carol Boye
Katherine Buttolph
Michele S. Byers
Marty and Christine Carrara
Sarah Cole
Andrew Dana
Gerald Faber
Julia Flath
James and Kathy Garland
John and Julie Guerard
Susan Hansen
Frederick and Susan
Herrmann
Bob and Nina Hynes
Nina Joly
Harold Katz
Jane Kim
Marty and Lisa MacCollum
Laura McKenzie
Lauren Michaels
Alison E. Mitchell and Chris
Keep
Karen Moriarty
Andrea Peck
Pamela Posnock
Karen Richards
Timothy C. Riegert
Phyllis Ruffer
Judith Snow
Patricia Stanko
Taft Communications
Julia Talarick
Selma Tarcan
The Scalzi Ponce de Leon
Family Fund
Douglas and Debby Trump
Ingrid Vandegaer
Cari Wild

Tributes

(from October 1, 2021
through December 31, 2021)

Michele S. Byers
Michael F. Gallaway
Chris and Melanie Jage
Joseph Basralian
Arnold Cohen
Andrew Dana
Betty Ann Kelly
Edward Tetelman
Daniel B. Wilkinson
and Katherine M.
Dixon
Norman Carter
Lynn and Mac Carter
Matthew and Rossana
Martinez Deleget
Alison Deleget
Emile DeVito
Marlene J. Boyd
Susan Dorward
Dr. Rosina B. Dixon
Dave Jones
Clem Fiori
Daniel Fiori
Tom Gilbert
Michele S. Byers
Susan Dorward
Pamela Hirsch
Meryl Carmel
Danielle Joneja
Inge Knudson
Cynthia and Peter Kellogg
B. M. and Shelden O. Pisani
Alison Mitchell
Michele S. Byers
Rachel Porter
The Hon. Maureen Ogden
B. M. and Shelden O. Pisani
Edward Pfeiffer
Carol L. Pfeiffer
Jay Watson
Michele S. Byers

Morris and Clara Weshnak
Family Foundation
Barry Weshnak
Rich Wheeler
Mackenzie Piggott
Ann and Joseph Zayak
Alcides T. and Janet Z.
Andril
Clients of Ronald Berlin
Architect, PC:
Evan Anderson and Annie
Dunham
Ben Bair and Evelyn
Gilbert-Bair
Baxter Construction
Mo and Arnold Chen
Ashvin Chhabra and Daniela
Bonafede-Chhabra
Gary Conroy and Ken Giedd
Matt and Megan Daily
Matthew Feuer and Carol
Blum
Constance Fong
Colleen Goggins
John and Megan Jackson
Liz Lempert and Ken
Norman
Barry and Danielle Rand
Henry and Mary Reath
Ronald Berlin



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Byers awarded national Garden Club of America medal

Michele S. Byers, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's former executive director, has been honored with a prestigious national medal from the Garden Club of America (GCA).

Michele was chosen for the 2022 Frances K. Hutchinson Medal, awarded for distinguished service to conservation, in recognition of her decades of work to conserve natural lands. The medal was awarded at the GCA's annual meeting in April in Parsippany.

Previous recipients of the Hutchinson Medal include such luminaries as Rachel Carson, Walt Disney, Roger Tory Peterson and Lady Bird Johnson. Recipients from New Jersey include former Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Cindy Zipf, founder and executive director of the nonprofit Clean Ocean Action. Two renowned conservationists who recently passed away, E.O. Wilson and Thomas Lovejoy, were also Hutchinson Medal winners.

"I am honored and humbled to be recognized by the Garden Club of America along with so many conservation greats," said Michele.

A resident of the Pottersville section of Bedminster Township, Michele retired at the end of 2021 after 22 years at the helm. Her career at New Jersey Conservation had spanned nearly 40 years.

As executive director, Michele guided New Jersey Conservation in conserving 60,000 acres of open space and farmland in the nation's most densely populated state. That acreage amounted to almost half of the 125,000 acres New Jersey Conservation has preserved over its 62-year history.

Michele was also instrumental in establishing many nonprofit organizations that work cooperatively with New Jersey Conservation, including the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Highlands Coalition, Hunterdon Land Trust, Whitesbog Preservation Trust, NJ League of Conservation Voters and ReThink Energy NJ.

She led the organization in working hand-in-hand with civic groups and four former New Jersey governors to preserve the iconic view of the Palisades, and to revitalize urban parks and green spaces in Camden, one of America's poorest cities. Michele served on the New Jersey State Planning Commission for more than 10 years, helping to promote land preservation and appropriately located growth.

Michele is one of 10 recipients of the GCA's 2022 national medals, the highest honors bestowed on individuals or institutions for distinguished achievements. The GCA described her as "a model of leadership for conservation groups across the country, with an inspiring record of success in conserving the best of New Jersey for present and future generations."

"Having a wonderful board of trustees and staff at my side made all the difference, and this award would not have happened without them."

- MICHELE BYERS



Naturalist Jordan Parham led the annual

OWL CALLING & WOODCOCK WALK

at Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center. While learning about the ecology of New Jersey's plants and animals, we called for screech, barred, and great horned owls! An Eastern screech owl responded, delighting attendees as the full moon lit our trail.



Welcome New Trustee!

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

welcomes George N. Allport of Far Hills as the newest member of the Board of Trustees.

George is retired from the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, where he worked for almost 40 years in various commercial underwriting and management positions. He currently volunteers locally for the Essex Horse Trails, where he is responsible for sourcing, organizing and overseeing food vendors; and the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association Rummage Sale, where he works in the “treasury

department,” counting and tabulating proceeds of each day’s sales. He previously served on the board of the Morristown Medical Center Foundation and chaired its development committee.

George holds a BA degree in history from George Washington University. He and his wife have two grown children and three grandchildren, and their hobbies include travel and



GEORGE ALLPORT

horticulture. “My wife is an avid horticulturist and I am a dedicated helper, largely in charge of ground maintenance as opposed to anything requiring remembering Latin names,” he said.

Welcome, George!

Staff

Thomas Gilbert, *Co-Executive Director*

Alison Mitchell, *Co-Executive Director*

John S. Watson Jr., *Co-Executive Director*

Erica Arles, *Land Program Coordinator & Policy Assistant*

Alix Bacon, *Regional Manager, Western Piedmont*

Mark Barrick, *Information Technology / Office Manager*

Tim Brill, *Regional Manager Central Jersey*

Nicole Ceballos, *Development Associate*

Erica Colace, *Assistant Development Director*

Logan Davis, *Agricultural Land Steward*

Beth Davisson, *Regional Manager, Black River Greenway*

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

Robert Ferber, *Regional Manager, Delaware Bay Watershed*

Jane Gardner, *Policy & Development Assistant*

Jane Halsted, *CPA, Accounting Manager*

Amy Hansen, *Policy Manager*

Maria Hauser, *Director Human Resources / Board Liaison*

Steven Jack, *Land Steward*

Russell Juelg, *Senior Land Steward*

Stephanie Kreiser, *Director, South Jersey*

Bill Lynch, M.S., *Director of Engagement & Communications*

Lisa MacCollum, *Director, North & Central Jersey*

Melanie Mason, *Land Steward*

Timothy Morris, *Director of Stewardship*

Tanya Nolte, *Conservation Information & GIS Manager*

Rudisha Okezie, *Camden Area Regional Manager*

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, *Regional Manager, Highlands*

Allison Williams, *Stewardship Coordinator*



PAOLO



ALISON

Interns assist with stewardship projects

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomed two new interns to assist with stewardship projects at our preserves during the fall of 2021: Rutgers University students Estefano “Paolo” Mora of Kearny and Alison Belsky of Skillman.

Paolo is a senior majoring in ecology, evolution, and natural resources, and Alison is a junior majoring in environmental policy, institutions and behavior.

Both interns worked with Land Steward Melanie Mason and other stewardship staff at the new 1,150-acre Rainbow Hill at Sourland Mountain Preserve in Hunterdon and Somerset counties. Each worked through the fall to help to install and maintain trails and parking areas, install and maintain multiple deer enclosure fences in preparation for forest restoration projects, and coordinate volunteers to help with tree and shrub plantings.

Each internship was partially funded by the Garden Club of Morristown and New Jersey Conservation’s Babbott Conservation Intern Program, named for the late Edward Babbott, a longtime trustee.

You can help protect New Jersey’s forests, open spaces, wildlife and communities! Sign up for our Action Network for updates on how you can make a difference.



New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer and we are committed to building a diverse workforce and board of trustees.



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

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Bamboo Brook | 170 Longview Road | Far Hills, NJ 07931

www.njconservation.org



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

SAVE THE DATE

A Summer Solstice Celebration of the Land!

Live & Outdoors • Thursday, June 23 • 6:30 p.m.

at Brick Farm Tavern in Hopewell, NJ

Event updates at

<https://Solstice2022.givesmart.com>