

New Jersey Conservation



6 **A GIFT WITH EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT**
A \$3.2 million donation will be used to preserve waterfront land in Camden, and enhance residents' connection to nature.

8 **FARMLAND FOREVER!**
Three family farms totaling 235 acres have been permanently protected in Salem County, building on a preservation legacy.

10 **A 'TRUE' FAMILY PRESERVATION STORY**
New Jersey Conservation assisted our partners in preserving an historic Black-owned farmstead in Somerset County.



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ABOUT THE COVER

The Cooper River, a 16-mile tributary that joins the Delaware River in Camden, was once heavily polluted. Thanks to the Clean Water Act and local efforts, nature on the river once again thriving. Last summer, Camden County and the Upstream Alliance led a six-day expedition to rediscover and tell the story of this hidden gem. Watch the documentary at <https://vimeo.com/756775844>. Photo courtesy of the Upstream Alliance.



From Our Co-Executive Directors

Tom Gilbert | Alison Mitchell | Jay Watson

New Jersey Conservation Foundation's mission is just one sentence long: To preserve land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all. It may sound simple, but those few words pack a wallop - especially the last five!

Carrying out a land-saving mission in a state as diverse and densely-populated as New Jersey is a daunting challenge. New Jersey has more people per square mile than any other state, and an amazing variety of landscapes and habitats. From mountains to beaches to pine barrens, from cities to suburbs to rural areas, we've got it all. We're at the sweet spot where the ranges of northern plants and animals overlap the ranges of many southern species, giving us enormous biodiversity for a small state.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation's mission encompasses preserving open space and farmland, creating more equitable access to parks and green spaces in urban areas, defending preserved land against natural and human-made threats, responsibly stewarding our system of 17 preserves throughout the state, advancing policies to address the climate crisis and ensure sound land-use, and educating the public about nature and opportunities to protect and enjoy it.

In this newsletter, you'll see several examples of our mission at work. Read about an incredible \$3.2 million gift from a New Jersey Conservation donor to improve riverfront access and environmental education in the City of Camden, the preservation of an historic Black-owned farmstead in the Sourland Mountains, the permanent preservation of three family farms in Salem County, and an advocacy campaign to help fix our chronically underfunded state parks and forests.

None of these projects would be possible without the support of YOU, our loyal members and friends. Thanks to your generosity, the team at New Jersey Conservation Foundation is working hard to carry out our mission and provide "nature for all" throughout the Garden State!

**On behalf of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation staff and trustees,
we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year!**

Thomas A. Gilbert Alison Mitchell Jay Watson



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.





This past June, three hundred friends and supporters joined us at the Brick Farm Tavern in Hopewell for a summer solstice celebration! The evening featured gourmet farm-to-table fare and spirits, music, fun auctions, and summery, hand-crafted signature cocktails.



Pictured top left: Cathy Sowsian, Debra Watson, James Webb Jr., Jay Watson and John Sowsian. Top right: Kenneth H. Klipstein II and wife Lee, and Chris and Dick Smith. Bottom left: Tom and Jane Higgins, with Ted and Kathleen Bourke. Bottom right: Purba and Anupurba Lahiri with Pamela Hirsch.

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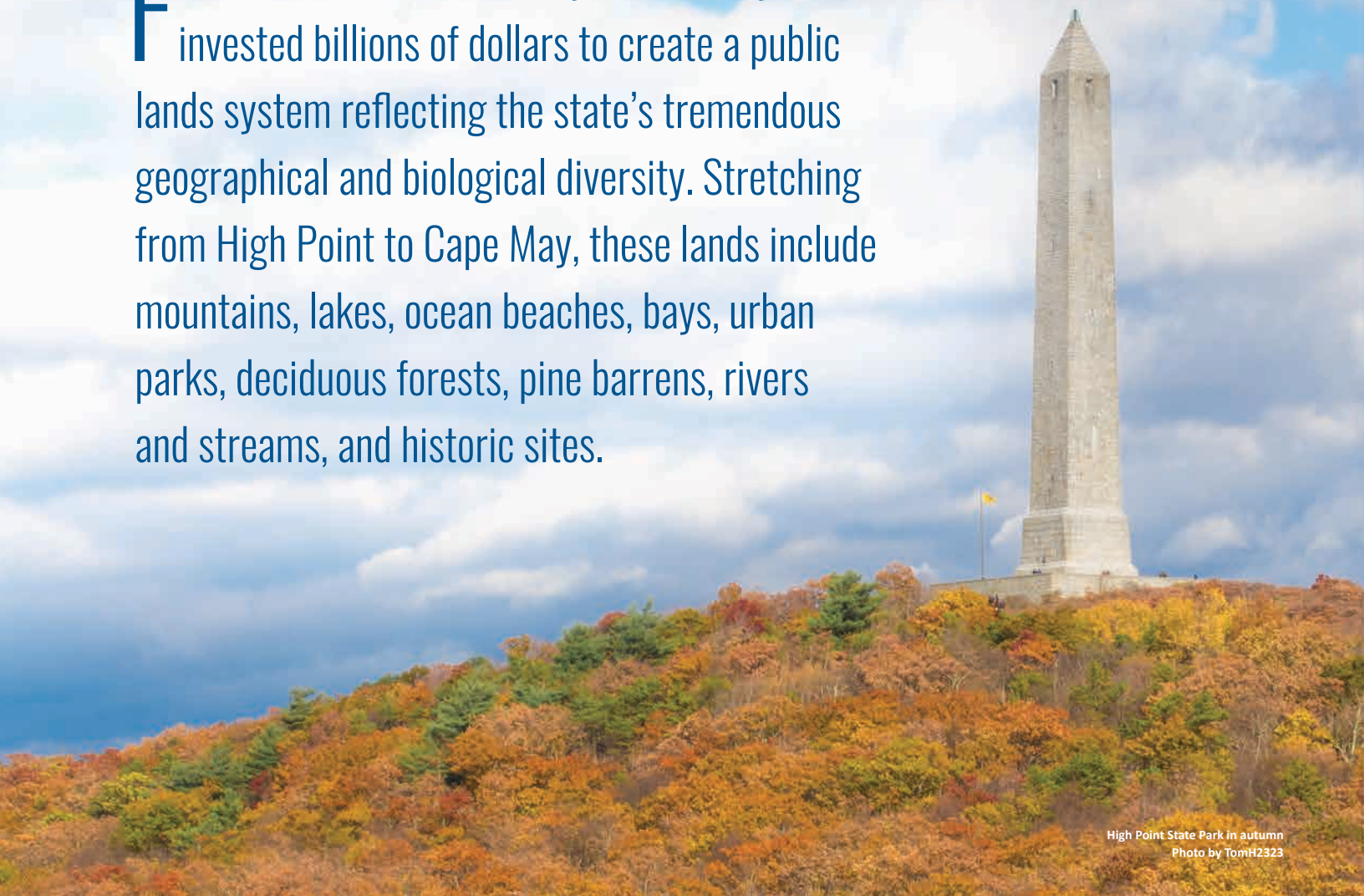
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Yellow-rumped warbler

It's time to “FIX OUR PARKS”

For more than half a century, New Jersey has invested billions of dollars to create a public lands system reflecting the state's tremendous geographical and biological diversity. Stretching from High Point to Cape May, these lands include mountains, lakes, ocean beaches, bays, urban parks, deciduous forests, pine barrens, rivers and streams, and historic sites.



High Point State Park in autumn
Photo by TomH2323



We have a great portfolio of parks. It's absolutely impressive on all the fronts: natural, cultural and historic. It just begs the need for increased resources."

- DR. MICHAEL VAN CLEF

It is critical to our society to have a well-funded and well-managed park system, one that protects places of scenic beauty, places that provide habitat for rare plants and wildlife, places where significant historic events occurred, and places that provide outdoor recreation to the public.

Unfortunately, New Jersey's state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, and natural areas have become sorely neglected. Natural resource and law enforcement staff have been reduced due to budget cuts, sensitive habitats are being damaged by unchecked and illegal off-road vehicle use, and natural beauty and biodiversity are being spoiled by destructive activities such as illegal dumping.

To raise awareness of the need to address these issues, New Jersey Conservation Foundation teamed up with the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Highlands Coalition and NY/NJ Trail Conference to launch the "Fix Our Parks" campaign.

A study commissioned by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, conducted by ecologist Dr. Michael Van Clef, concluded that New Jersey needs to increase park spending and staffing, and establish a "Friends" group that would raise funds and recruit volunteers for the parks.

Van Clef's research turned up some disturbing numbers: New Jersey has 51 state parks, run by only 15 park

superintendents. Staffing levels were down 26 percent between 2006 and 2018, despite a 13 percent increase in park acreage. There's only one park employee for every 36,000 visitors. New Jersey state park budgets are many times smaller than those of neighboring states.

Despite the good efforts of state park managers to keep the system running, the continual lack of resources has resulted in reduced public access to parks, swimming areas, trails, campgrounds, fishing spots, nature centers, educational programs and more.

The Fix Our Parks campaign launch highlighted Van Clef's New Jersey State Lands Management Report, which identifies the problems and offers concrete solutions.

Top campaign goals include:

- Ensuring stronger enforcement is taking place, with appropriate fines and penalties for activities like illegal off-road vehicle (ORV) riding, poaching, and dumping trash and debris.
- Increasing state funding and staffing for state parks and other public lands.
- Partnering with groups and volunteers to create a state-wide or regional "Friends" organization to support New Jersey state parks, forests, wildlife management areas and natural areas.

It's time for New Jersey to make an investment in the future of our state parks. New Jerseyans deserve a system that is well cared for and accessible to all – places where families can experience the joy of exploring the outdoors, and where natural resources are protected.



Off-road vehicles caused severe damage to this property in the Pine Barrens.

To learn more about the Fix Our Parks initiative and download a copy of Van Clef's report, go to: FixOurParksNJ.org.



\$3.2 MILLION GIFT

to boost Camden nature connection



“

Helping people experience nature in their neighborhood is crucial to the wellbeing of urban residents who deserve to enjoy the many benefits of nature.”

- JAY WATSON

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is excited to announce an extraordinary \$3.2 million gift to improve Camden residents' access to and connection with the city's riverfront areas, and provide hands-on marine science education for children aboard a floating classroom.

"This project represents a transformational opportunity to connect Camden residents with the outdoors, and we're incredibly grateful for the generous gift that made it possible," said Alison Mitchell, co-executive director.

The gift comes from a longtime New Jersey Conservation supporter donating under the name of Silent Maid 1924.

The gift was made to the Michele Byers Legacy Fund, established in honor of longtime Executive Director Michele S. Byers to carry forward innovative initiatives begun under her leadership, including creating more urban green spaces and better community access. Byers retired in December 2021 after a nearly 40-year career with New Jersey Conservation.

We are now working with Camden County to acquire and preserve four key waterfront properties along the Delaware and Cooper Rivers, which will become part of a 13-mile water trail and will connect to an 8-mile greenway trail for hiking and biking. The project is being developed with Discover the

Delaware, a partnership of organizations that offers kayak and bicycle trips on and around Camden's waterways.

Work is expected to begin in Spring 2023 on a boat launch and floating dock on the tidal Cooper River at Gateway Park, which is managed by New Jersey Conservation. The launch will provide access for non-motorized boats such as kayaks and canoes, and the dock will enable easier access for fishing along the river's banks.

Construction of a solar-powered catamaran that will be used as an education center to provide water-based programming for Camden school children and community organizations is expected to be completed in Fall 2023. The craft will dock at a local marina operated by the Upstream Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting people with nature. The organization will identify and develop a nonprofit organization to lead educational programs.

The project's benefactor said Michele Byers' commitment to helping the City of Camden inspired them to donate.

New Jersey Conservation began working in Camden in 1986, with the long-term vision of establishing a greenway along the Cooper River. More than 35 years later, we're playing an active role in the city's renaissance, working with numerous community partners to provide access to nature and waterways, education programs and recreation opportunities.

"The Board of Commissioners is thrilled to accept private dollars to supplement and enhance our public resources throughout the county," said Jeffrey Nash, commissioner of the Camden County Parks Department. "These funds will be utilized to provide access and amenities for our residents throughout our greenspaces, playgrounds and waterways that improve our collective quality of life."

For more information about the Michele Byers Legacy Fund, contact Alison Mitchell at alison@njconservation.org.



SOLAR EXPLORER

49-Foot Solar-Electric Catamaran

Gerr Marine Des. No. 146 - 1/22/22

"This boat will be a flagship for environmental education in Camden and along the Delaware River, providing opportunities and meaningful watershed experiences for students and teachers alike."

- DON BAUGH, President & Founder of the Upstream Alliance

THREE FAMILY FARMS preserved in Salem County!

Three family farms totaling 237 acres in Salem County will stay in agriculture forever, thanks to longtime partnerships between New Jersey Conservation Foundation, charitable foundations, and local, state and federal farmland preservation programs.

This past summer, we worked cooperatively with partners to permanently preserve the 163-acre Harris farm in Mannington Township, the 23-acre Bell farm in Alloway Township, and the 51-acre Rieck farm in Alloway Township.

“Salem County is in the heart of the Garden State’s farm belt, with a long tradition of family farm ownership,” said Jay Watson. “Development pressure is increasing in the area, so permanently preserving these farms helps protect the future of the county’s agriculture industry and the stability of the local food supply.”



In all three projects, the farm owners sold the development rights on the land through farmland easements. The families still own the farms, but the land is now deed-restricted to agricultural uses.

The 163-acre Harris farm has been in the same family for multiple generations, and includes a brick farmhouse built in the 1700s, where the owner and his father were born. The farm currently has about 50 head of beef cattle and grows corn, hay and soybeans. It’s located in an area predominated by preserved farmland, and adjacent to the Mannington Marsh Wildlife Refuge. The land is composed mostly of “prime” soils, the highest quality for agricultural production.

Preservation partners include The 1772 Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) and the Land Trust Alliance.

The two projects in Alloway Township reflect New Jersey Conservation’s longstanding partnership with the township, Salem County, NRCS and

SADC to protect the area’s agricultural heritage. Since 2009, we have helped preserve 19 farms totaling 1,280 acres in Alloway Township.

The Bell farm contains high-quality soils, with about 16 acres of hay fields and pasture, and the remainder in woodlands. The Bell family raises beef cattle, as well as horses for their personal use, including rodeo competitions.

The Rieck farm is mostly cropland and pasture, with about a quarter in woodlands. The woods protect water quality in the Carlisle Run, a tributary of the Alloway Creek. The farm is composed mostly of high-quality soils and is next to the state’s Thundergut Pond Wildlife Management Area.

These farms are in close proximity to the William Penn Foundation’s Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) Lower Salem River Focus Area. The foundation is a major supporter of New Jersey Conservation’s land preservation work.

Thank you to our partners for making these preservation projects possible, and for keeping agriculture alive and viable in Salem County!



2022

GAINING
GROUND

11 Projects

Jan 2022

—
Oct 2022NJ Conservation Owned: 37 acres
(Fee or Easement)

Preserved in Partnership: 576 acres



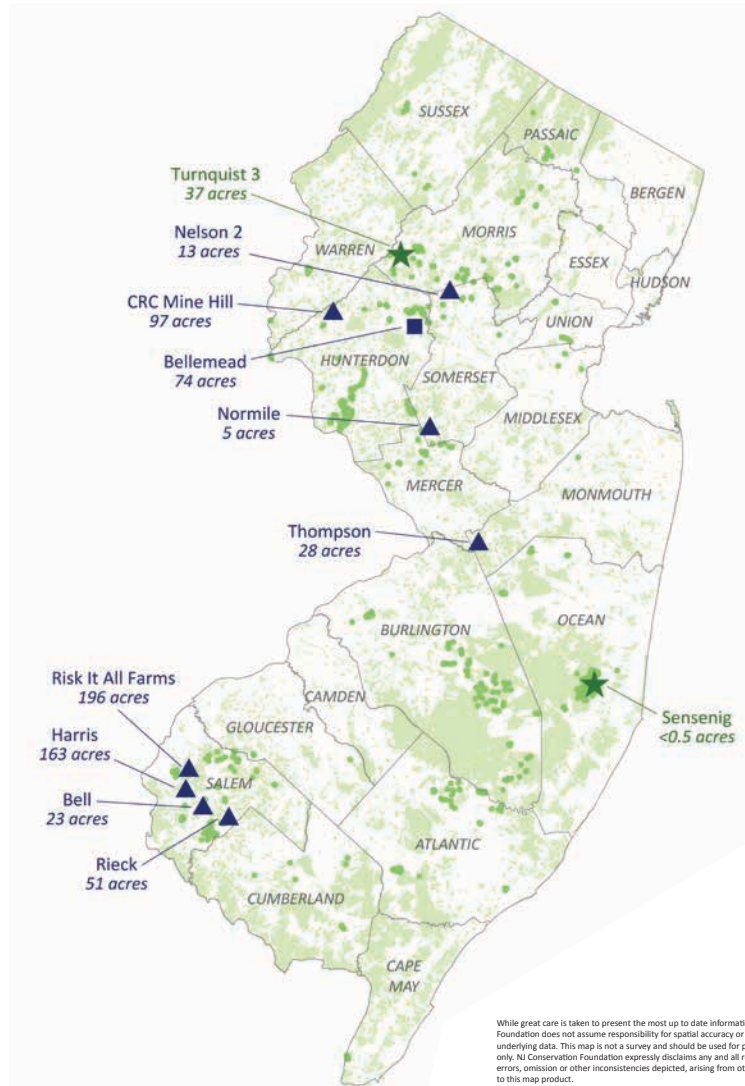
Transfers: 74 acres

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

TOTAL: 687 acres

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved 687 acres from January 2022 through October 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!





Photo by Michael Mancuso / NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Historic farmstead tells True family story

A museum dedicated to researching, documenting and celebrating the African American history of the Sourland Mountains got a boost recently, when New Jersey Conservation Foundation helped it and the Sourland Conservancy acquire an historic farmstead next to its property in Montgomery Township, Somerset County.

The Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM, pronounced “Sam”) was established in 2014 in the Mount Zion AME Church in the township’s rural Skillman section. The museum has amassed an impressive collection of photos, documents and artifacts telling the story of Black settlement in the Sourlands and Hopewell Valley, dating back to the pre-Civil War era.

SSAAM’s founders and directors were already looking to expand the museum when a unique opportunity arose: the owners of a neighboring 5-acre farmstead wanted to sell. Even better, the property previously belonged to the family of one of the first Black landowners in the Sourland Mountains region.

“It was an amazing opportunity,” said Jay Watson, one of New Jersey Conservation Foundation’s co-executive directors and the head of the organization’s land protection program.

Jay immediately offered New Jersey Conservation’s assistance in preserving the property to support SSAAM’s operations and programs; and the work of the Sourland Conservancy. “While small in size in the context of our land preservation efforts in the state, this project is large in purpose and importance, and we were happy to be of assistance.”

Working cooperatively with SSAAM, the Sourland Conservancy and several partners – including Somerset County, the state Green Acres Program and Montgomery Township – New Jersey Conservation provided technical assistance to coordinate the preservation of the farmstead.

A ceremony celebrated the partnership in early October.

“As we cross this threshold, we move closer to creating a larger museum complex and environmental conservancy center where SSAAM will do our part to heal our community, by offering a broader and truer story of American history,” said Donnetta Bishop-Johnson, the museum’s executive director.

The farmstead has a long history of Black ownership. In 1891, Spencer True married his wife Corinda, who had inherited the land upon the death of her first husband, a Black Union army veteran who became a farmer after the Civil War.

The property became known as the True family farmstead. Spencer True was a descendant of Friday Truehart, a former slave who had been brought from South Carolina to Hopewell, N.J. Truehart gained his freedom in 1819 and became an early African American landowner in the Sourlands.

Spencer and Corinda True’s farmstead originally included the land on which the Mount Zion AME Church stands today. Spencer and Corinda donated land for the church in 1899 after the original church building on a nearby location burned down.

Descendants of the True family sold the remaining farmstead to the Normile family in 1994. With the recent purchase of the farmstead and recombining of the parcels, the True family story has come full circle!

For more information about the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum, go to www.ssaamuseum.org/museum.

Jay Watson named to “Outside Together” advisory group

Since the Covid-19 pandemic began nearly three years ago, many people have rediscovered the joy of spending time in the great outdoors. Not only is being in the sunshine and fresh air good for physical and mental health, it’s a great way to gather with friends when socializing indoors isn’t safe.

A big challenge for New Jersey – a state with extremely diverse geography and populations – is making sure that all residents have access to outdoor recreation in their communities, and are given a say in the development of facilities and programs funded with public dollars.

On Earth Day, the Murphy administration launched a new initiative called “Outside, Together!” to increase public engagement and input. The initiative includes creating an Advisory Committee to oversee the update of New Jersey’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), a document that guides a multitude of land acquisition, park development and program decisions.

Jay Watson, Co-Executive Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, was appointed this fall to serve on the Advisory Committee.

New Jersey’s SCORP must be updated every five years in order for the state to be eligible for federal grants, such as those awarded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program. What’s new

“

The development of the new outdoor recreation plan is exciting because the public will have a stronger voice than ever before.

- JAY WATSON

about Outside, Together! is the emphasis on ensuring there will be green spaces in every neighborhood. This is especially crucial in New Jersey’s cities and communities of color, where there has historically been less access to nature.

“There’s a growing realization that not every community wants and needs the same thing,” says Jay. “We can’t expect that every kid is going to want to go into the woods, walk along a stream and flip rocks to find salamanders. Though many of us have come to nature in that way, it’s not the only way.”

The Advisory Committee is meeting now through spring 2023, with the plan to be finalized and submitted in the fall of 2023.



thank you!

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges donors who made contributions between January 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022. With your support, we preserve and protect New Jersey's lands.

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(from January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022)

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CONSERVATION FOUNDATION!

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.

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 Douglas and Gloria Paternoster
 Frank and Trudy Patterson
 Henry S. Patterson, III
 Paul Von der Heyden Foundation
 David Rago and Suzanne Perrault
 Silent Maid 1924
 Pheasant Hill Foundation
 Virginia Pierson
 Jennifer Pisani
 PK Environmental
 Gregory Puchalski
 Michelle Ray
 Joan Rechnitz Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund
 REI, Inc.
 Reed Family Foundation
 Janice Reid
 Frederick L. and Laura S. Rhodes
 Timothy C. Riegert
 River Branch Foundation
 Anthony and Glorienne Robbi
 Larry Rockefeller Fund
 The Roll Family Fund
 Patricia Rolston
 Gregory and Carol L. Romano
 Rosemont Foundation
 Leslie and Thomas Schorr
 James A. & Sharon Schwarz Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ
 John A. and Josephine Scully
 Jeffrey and Mary Louise Shafer
 Patricia Shanley
 The Short Hills Garden Club
 Judith Snow
 Frances Spann
 Stockwell Donor Advised Charitable Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
 Jacqueline Strigl
 Sumner Gerard Foundation
 Swayne Family Fund
 Nancy A. Swift

Connolly Taft Family Charitable Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
 John and Mary M. Tassini
 Teetsel & Jacobs Charitable Fund
 Penny and Ted Thomas Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
 Julia Truszkowski
 Upstream Alliance
 James R. and Nancy W. Utaski
 Mary Walter
 Charles F. and Carole A. West
 The William Penn Foundation
 Anne Williams
 Robert W. and Elizabeth S. Wilson
 Clifford C. and Louise C. Wilson
 Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation, Inc.
 Bob and Barbara Wolfe Charitable Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation

Memorials

(from January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022)

Nellie Bubrow
 Keith T. Bubrow
 Russ Dieffenbach
 Laura Zimmerman
 Anthony John Gili
 Charles Gili
 Steve Grosso
 Kenneth Grosso
 Margaret C. Hefler
 Joanne Aulicino
 Beatrice Violet Jenkins
 Scott Holloman
 Richard Kohler
 Karen E. Kohler Charitable Foundation
 Jacqueline McGlue
 Michelle McCreary
 David W. Moore
 Charlene Costaris
 Lynn Jaskot
 Verna P. Urbanski
 The Hon. Maureen Ogden
 Lucy Banta
 Hester Fuller
 Mr. and Mrs. James G. Hellmuth
 Catherine Herbst
 Gayle Chamberlin Hoyt
 Ann W. Klemme
 Alison E. Mitchell and Chris Keep
 B.M. and Shelden O. Pisani
 Silent Maid 1924
 Louis Richard Palatine, Sr.
 Elaine L. Palatine
 Richard Louis Palatine Jr.
 Elaine L. Palatine
 Robert Papp
 Allan Papp
 Joel Rosen
 Devorah Waesch

Antonio Schumann
 Richard Schumann
 George M. Sciarra
 Donna & Frank Albano
 Metta Cahill
 Joan Delfino and Tanya Wendling
 Joyce Gillette
 Patricia Hoffman
 Patricia Lenza
 Marie Van Kruiningen
 Diane Irrgang
 Barbara A. Wollenberger
 John and Kimberley Busel
 Metro Theater Company
 Mikel Garrett
 Jerri and Bill Livingston
 Ellen Livingston and Edward Levitt
 Maggie Loewenwarter
 Meaghan McGrath
 John Shillito
 Terri Withington
 Richard Woytisek
 Cynthia Focarino
 Veronica Wright
 Steve Sobocinski
 James Wyse
 Veronica Berruz

Tributes

(from January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022)

Beast Coast Productions, LLC
 Vanessa Kline
 Marta Bell
 Colin Bell
 MacKenzie Belling and Paul Angelucci
 Bryan Dunn
 Barbara Blumenthal
 Barbara Coe and Joe Highland
 Leigh Gibson
 Michele Byers
 Lois K. Stewart
 Lynn and Mac Carter
 Terry Carter
 Emile DeVito
 Michael and Marilyn Dee
 Summit Garden Club
 Rosina Dixon
 David Jones
 Beryl Doyle
 Lois K. Stewart
 Marge Drody
 Judith P. Tili
 Janet and Robert's wedding
 Elizabeth Clegg-Richards
 Jennifer Juliano
 Amelia Shane
 Cynthia and Peter Kellogg
 B. M. and Shelden O. Pisani
 Robb and Karen Sansone
 Andrew Bishop
 John Watson
 Ray Falls
 Abe
 Jennifer Carson



IN MEMORIAM

Governor James Florio, longtime environmental champion

The pristine wilderness of the New Jersey Pine Barrens may seem worlds apart from the state's polluted industrial sites in need of cleanup and restoration. But one thing they had in common was James Florio in their corner.



Florio – a former Governor, Congressman, Assemblyman, chair of the state Pinelands Commission, and honorary trustee of New Jersey Conservation Foundation – passed away in September at the age of 85. He will be remembered as a tough and courageous environmental champion whose legacy included helping preserve a million acres of the Pine Barrens as a national

reserve and spearheading federal Superfund legislation.

As a Congressman from 1974-90 – an era of growing concern over industrial pollution – Governor Florio authored the Superfund law to make polluters clean up severely contaminated sites. He was also part of the movement to stop ocean dumping off the New Jersey coast.

A huge part of his environmental legacy came from leading the successful push for a federal Pinelands protection law, which set the stage for the state Pinelands Protection Act.

As governor, he was an early leader in securing protection for the New Jersey Highlands, a key source of drinking water. In 1993, he created a Highlands advisory board to identify lands most suitable for preservation and conservation. This laid the groundwork for the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004.

After leaving the governor's office, he regularly advocated and consulted on environmental matters. He served as an honorary NJ Conservation trustee, along with Governors Kean, Whitman and Byrne. The four collectively spoke out on a number of issues, including a proposal for a high-rise corporate building on the Palisades cliffs. Thanks in part to their activism, a compromise was reached on the building height and the historic view was preserved.

New Jersey owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Governor Florio. Thanks to him and the leaders he influenced, the state's residents enjoy protected land and water in the Pinelands and Highlands, clean beaches, and continuing cleanups of contaminated sites.

Remembering Maureen Ogden

If you love New Jersey's open space and clean water, one of the people to be thanked for helping to protect them is the late Maureen Ogden, a former state Assemblywoman who served on New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Board of Trustees for over 15 years.

Maureen passed away in August at the age of 93, leaving an over 50-year legacy as a staunch advocate for the environment.

A Millburn resident, Maureen began her environmental career as a volunteer at a local arboretum. She joined the Millburn Environmental Commission, was later elected to the Township Committee, and also served as mayor.



While in the Assembly from 1982-96, she was instrumental in the passage of the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, one of the nation's strongest wetland laws. She also championed legislation protecting open space, endangered species, and water and air quality.

After leaving the Assembly, she chaired the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors, tasked with assessing open space needs and recommending funding. After passage of a statewide open space referendum in 1998, she became the first head of the Garden State Preservation Trust, which funded the protection of hundreds of thousands of acres.

She served as a commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and a member of the Legacy Council of NJ Highlands Coalition.

Maureen generously gave her time, expertise and resources to NJ Conservation. She joined the Board of Trustees in 2006, co-chaired the Policy Committee for many years, and most recently served as an honorary trustee, alongside former Governors Kean, Whitman and Florio. In 2014, NJ Conservation named a nature preserve in Long Valley in her honor.

She was active in the Garden Club of America, using its leverage to boost environmental advocacy efforts in Trenton. She was always ready to jump in and help on issues, as she did when the iconic Palisades cliffs were threatened by high-rise development.

Our deepest condolences to Maureen's family. Her passion and dedication made New Jersey a better place, and she will not be forgotten!

Interns survey and remove invasive European water chestnut at Apshawa Preserve.



Thanks to our interns and fellows

working on invasive species management, the Forest Task Force, growing flowers at Capital City Farm and Camden Parks!

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomed five interns and fellows who worked throughout the state this summer and fall: Willie Grosch of Warren, Kailey Purnell of Haddonfield, Allyson Schmieder of Oxford, Alyssa Schramm of Springfield, and Vicky Vega of Trenton.

Alyssa and Willie worked with Land Steward Melanie Mason and other stewardship staff to implement an Invasive Species Management Plan at NJ

Conservation's Apshawa Preserve in West Milford. Both internships were funded by the Garden Club of Morristown.

Intern Allyson is attending meetings and helping coordinate the NJ Forest Stewardship Task Force. Tom Gilbert is one of the Co-Chairs of the Task Force, which is working to develop forest management recommendations to the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee. This internship is funded by the Langdon Palmer Memorial Internship Program.

Vicky ran the cut flower operation at Capital City Farm in Trenton, growing flowers and creating beautiful bouquets

to share with local residents and assisting others that wanted to create their own bouquets. Vicky's fellowship was funded by the Mary Owen Borden Foundation with support from NJ Conservation Foundation and Mercer County Park Commission.

Kailey, Camden Fellow from the Alliance for Watershed Education, designed a survey of Camden residents to better understand park usage and learn which programming is most popular. She designed and led an environmental fair at Gateway Park and helped partners in the City lead kayaking programs.



LIPING AN

Welcome New Trustee!

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes Liping An of Princeton to the Board of Trustees.

Liping An grew up in Beijing, China, and came to the United States in 1995 to attend graduate school at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. An information technology consultant, he has now been a resident of the U.S. for 27 years and is a naturalized citizen. He is actively involved in various community activities, including volunteering as a parent judge for the Princeton High School debate team, chairing the Edison Chinese school parent council, and volunteering for political campaigns. He loves nature and is passionate about environmental protection. He and his wife have two children in college.

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
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



Join Our Email List

We'd like to have your email address so we can keep you updated on New Jersey Conservation Foundation news, program and events.

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

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