

# New Jersey Conservation

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CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS  
OF THE Franklin Parker Preserve

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FOUNDATION

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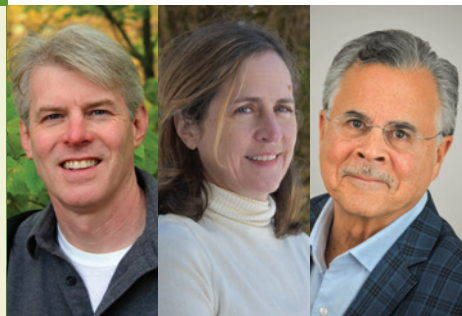
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## From Our Co-Executive Directors

Tom Gilbert | Alison Mitchell | Jay Watson

In early 1960, it seemed that life might never be the same in the Great Swamp of Morris and Somerset counties. The powerful Port Authority had proposed to build a modern new "jetport" covering about 10,000 acres in a pastoral landscape of freshwater wetlands surrounded by farms and villages.

Residents were determined not to give up on their peaceful corner of New Jersey – less than 40 miles from midtown Manhattan – without a fight.

They formed a pair of grassroots organizations that proved incredibly effective in the David vs. Goliath battle. An ingenious strategy deployed by one group, the Great Swamp Committee, was quietly buying up land to donate to the federal government as the core of a new National Wildlife Refuge.

As history shows, David prevailed. Plans for the jetport were doomed once the U.S. Department of the Interior accepted the land donation and created the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The Great Swamp Committee became the North Jersey Conservation Foundation and, later, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Inspired by its founding fight, over the past 63 years, NJ Conservation has not hesitated to take on other big projects and tough challenges!

The creation of the Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens is a prime example. In the early 2000s, it seemed impossible that a nonprofit could buy a 14-square-mile former cranberry farm worth \$24 million ... even when the landowner offered to donate half its value. But thanks to the vision of the Board of Trustees and the generosity and commitment of donors, the dream became reality in 2003.

The Franklin Parker Preserve is now NJ Conservation's largest preserve. Learn all about it starting on page 4, and mark your calendars for a fun 20th anniversary event at the Preserve on Saturday, May 13.

Other major long-odds victories over the years have included working with partners to protect the iconic Palisades cliffs viewshed in Bergen County when an international electronics giant was building a new corporate headquarters, and stopping the unneeded PennEast gas pipeline in Hunterdon and Mercer counties that threatened thousands of acres of land preserved with public funds.

None of these successes would have happened without the steadfast support of members and friends like you. Your generosity makes everything possible, and we are eternally grateful!



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.

Since 1960, we have preserved more than 140,000 acres of open space, farmland, and parks. We also manage 17 nature preserves, conduct public outreach and education programs, and advocate for sensible land use and climate policies that will protect the health of New Jersey communities for generations to come.

For membership information, please visit our website at [www.njconservation.org](http://www.njconservation.org) or call us at 1-888-LANDSAVE.

Our mailing address is  
170 Longview Road,  
Far Hills, New Jersey 07931.



*Thomas A. Gilbert Alison Mitchell*



# FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE IS TURNING 20

Help us celebrate on Saturday, May 13 at the preserve!



Art by Susan Crawford

**FRANKLIN • PARKER • PRESERVE**

The day will kick off with a series of morning walks followed by an incredible celebration with live music from Jackson Pines, local food trucks, artists, and vendors.

For more information and to sign up for the day's festivities – and any of the walks – please visit [njconservation.org/fppday](http://njconservation.org/fppday).

Read more about this historic preservation on page 4!







# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE Franklin Parker Preserve

Michele Byers will never forget the day more than two decades ago when she answered a game-changing phone call. The caller was Pine Barrens cranberry farmer Garfield DeMarco, offering to sell his family's nearly 10,000-acre farm for preservation.

Michele, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's executive director at the time, remembers rallying the staff around a map of the Pine Barrens to check out the property. All were amazed to see its immensity and how it was surrounded by preserved lands on every side.

At nearly 14 square miles, the Burlington County property was larger than many New Jersey towns. Like a puzzle piece, it connected Wharton State Forest, Brendan Byrne State Forest and Bass River State Forest.

Only a small portion of the DeMarco property was covered by cranberry bogs and blueberry fields. Most of the land was a nature lover's paradise, with sparkling reservoirs, vast pine and scrub oak forests, rare Atlantic white cedar swamps, and 14 tributaries of the West Branch of the Wading River.

The land included exceptional habitat for rare and endangered animals, including bald eagles, barred owls and iconic Pine Barrens tree frogs. Waterfowl like hooded mergansers and wood ducks, raptors like the sharp-shinned hawks and saw-whet owls, and songbirds including prairie warblers and scarlet tanagers, thrived on the property's diverse habitat. Snow geese and tundra swans were regular winter visitors.

Garfield DeMarco's call to NJ Conservation was prompted by his decision to stop growing cranberries on the farm that had been assembled by his family over the previous 60 years. Instead, he wished to permanently preserve the land as a tribute to his parents.

Pictured top left: In a photo from the preserve's early days, Dr. Emile DeVito and his daughter, Isabel, imitate a Northern pine snake sticking its tongue out.

Pictured bottom center: The Preserve's namesake, the late Franklin Parker

Photos by Richard Lewis: top center, main center image, bottom left and bottom right





Pictured left: Michele Byers and Garfield DeMarco  
Drone photography by: Richard Lewis

“My family and I want to see this unique and beautiful property preserved in its natural state for all the people of New Jersey,” explained Mr. DeMarco at the time. As an incentive, he offered to give half of the property’s \$24 million value to New Jersey Conservation as a gift.

“It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. In one transaction, we had the chance to preserve nearly 10,000 acres of diverse habitat, protect vital water supplies, and expand recreational opportunities for the public. We knew we had to find a way to raise the money for this land.”

- MICHELE BYERS

Fortunately, many New Jersey Conservation members and supporters came through with unsurpassed generosity during the fundraising campaign. Sam Lambert, president of NJ Conservation’s Board of Trustees at the time, was especially instrumental to the campaign’s success.

In less than a year, \$5.2 million in private contributions were raised, along with a \$1.5 million loan from the Open Space Institute. Later, the funding gap was closed with substantial funding from the US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program through the Department of Interior. The state Green Acres Program contributed funding by purchasing an undivided ownership interest in the land.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation officially closed on the property on Dec. 31, 2003, in what was the largest private land conservation acquisition in New Jersey history.

In September 2004, the land was officially dedicated as the Franklin Parker Preserve in honor of the first chairman of the state Pinelands Commission and a longtime New Jersey Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees member and president. Mr. Parker passed away in 2008.

Over the past two decades, the Franklin Parker Preserve has become a premiere destination for visitors who want to experience the beauty and serenity of nature on one of the most unspoiled wilderness gems in the Pine Barrens.



**New Jersey Conservation has worked steadily over the years to expand and improve the preserve:**

- We acquired several adjacent properties, increasing the size the preserve by some 2,000 acres. It currently stands at about 11,400 acres, or 18 square miles, and is the largest preserve in New Jersey owned and managed by a nonprofit organization!
- More than 20 miles of trails and two nature observation platforms have been built by the stewardship staff and volunteers. Many trails use parts of old sand roads and dikes from the property's cranberry farm days. In addition, the popular Batona Trail was rerouted to traverse the preserve, taking hikers off of roads and extending the trail's length to 53 miles.
- In 2008, funding from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service helped to restore 1,100 acres of former cranberry bog into functional freshwater wetlands. The restoration project won a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in 2011.
- In 2013, the A.R. DeMarco Cranberry Meadows Natural Area within the Franklin Parker Preserve was formally dedicated in honor of Garfield DeMarco's parents, Anthony R. and Gladys Alloway DeMarco. Garfield DeMarco passed away in 2019.

Today, Michele is still in awe of the preserve whose protection she counts among the greatest accomplishments during her tenure as executive director "I love the Pine Barrens, especially the Franklin Parker Preserve," she said, "and it is so great to see all the pictures and posts on social media from people who truly enjoy and rave about this magical place."



## **Volunteers keep preserve's trails SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE**

When hikers hit the trail, the last thing they need is to get lost or end up on a path in poor condition. However, keeping trails well marked and tended can be a challenge in a place like the Franklin Parker Preserve, with more than 20 miles of trails.

That's why New Jersey Conservation Foundation is so grateful for the work performed by an incredible group of volunteers from the Outdoor Club of South Jersey.

The club's trail maintenance crew, led by Rosemarie Mason of Port Republic, works with Russell Juelg, NJ Conservation's senior land steward and Pine Barrens educator, to perform tasks ranging from trimming overgrown foliage, to making sure there are easy-to-spot trail blazes at regular intervals, to replacing damaged stream crossings.

"When Russell calls and says he needs help, we're there for him," said Rosemarie. "We'll do anything to keep the trails open."

The trail crew consists of 20-25 volunteers, most of whom are retired and many of whom have experience in construction, carpentry, and engineering.

The trail crew meets for three hours every Tuesday from mid-September through early June, either at Franklin Parker Preserve or at nearby Wharton, Bass River and Brendan Byrne state forests. Last year, they contributed about 2,100 volunteer hours at the four sites!

"We enjoy the work and have a lot of fun together," said Rosemarie. "It's a nice group; I'm very blessed."

The Outdoor Club of South Jersey has almost 1,600 members and organizes hiking, biking, paddling, camping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trips throughout the year.

**To find out more, go to [www.ocsj.org](http://www.ocsj.org).**



Photo by Richard Lewis



# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS FLOCK to Parker Preserve

The Franklin Parker Preserve is not only a great place to hike and observe nature. Because of the preserve's important habitat for plant and animal species, it has also become a hotbed of scientific research.



PINE BARRENS TREE FROG  
Photo by Bob Hamilton

## HERE ARE SOME ONGOING STUDIES ON THE PRESERVE'S PLANTS, ANIMALS, FUNGI, HYDROLOGY AND FIRE ECOLOGY:

### WETLANDS RESTORATION

Dr. Daniela Shebitz of Kean University has published numerous scientific studies looking at how quickly vegetation recovers after old cranberry fields are restored to functioning wetlands. She found that modifying the topography produced diverse plant communities more rapidly, but over the long term all restored areas with similar water levels will reach similar vegetated states. "This is important, because it supports the idea that ecological restoration in the Pine Barrens is a resilient process, and can succeed using a variety of methods," said Dr. Emile DeVito, staff biologist for New Jersey Conservation Foundation.





NORTHERN PINE SNAKE  
Photo by Justin Lee

### NORTHERN PINE SNAKE BEHAVIOR

For years, NJ Conservation staff and volunteers have conducted small-scale radio-telemetry studies on pine snake movements, and Dr. Kevin Smith of Drexel University did a Ph.D. project on newly-hatched pine snakes. These studies led to ongoing, long-term studies by the Pinelands Commission on four rare reptile species. "This group of scientists is investigating numerous aspects of critical habitat needs, home range and movement patterns, and nesting and over-wintering behavior, so that we can ensure that management and public access decisions are always made in the interest of these rare species," explained Dr. DeVito.



GHOST TIGER BEETLE  
Photo by Wade Wander

### INSECT STUDIES

The Philadelphia Academy of Sciences and the American Entomological Society conducted many years of field research at the Franklin Parker Preserve, resulting in the counting of over 1,000 insect species – including some never seen before! The project was the brainchild of the late Howard Boyd, noted Pine Barrens author and naturalist, and overseen by Drs. Jon Gelhaus and Greg Cowper, and the late Dr. Jamie Cromartie. Dr. Steven Mason of Immaculata University is continuing the study, especially in relation to fire ecology.

### FIRE ECOLOGY

NJ Conservation has been working with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service and the National Forest Service to learn about conducting hot, prescribed burns that mimic the beneficial ecological effects of wildfires. "We are trying to learn how to benefit the Pine Barrens ecosystem while protecting surrounding Chatsworth village from wildfires," said Dr. DeVito. "In combination with studies on fire behavior, we are also studying how uncommon plants such as Pine Barrens gentian and turkey beard can be promoted with fire management."



PINE BARRENS GENTIAN  
Photo by Richard Lewis

### RARE PLANTS

Two endangered plant species, American chaffseed and Pickering's morning glory, are being intensely studied in collaboration with researchers Charles Barraca and Callie Valent of Duke Farms and Dr. Jay Kelly of Raritan Valley College. "We are learning how to propagate these species and re-introduce them into the wild in separate 'experimental' populations," said Dr. DeVito. "We're also working hard to protect the few wild populations still remaining in the Pine Barrens, which are extremely vulnerable to destruction by illegal off-road vehicular traffic and agricultural water consumption."



DEVIL'S TOOTH FUNGUS  
Photo by Bill Lynch

### MUSHROOMS

The New Jersey Mycological Society has been steadfastly surveying the preserve for mushrooms for over a decade! The continuing study has documented about 1,000 species, and keeps finding new species every year, including many species recently arrived from the southern United States due to climate change, and a couple of species that are likely new to science. "Mycological Society leaders Nina and John Burghardt and their colleagues have put in thousands of hours of field and laboratory work. Their dedication to this immense scientific endeavor has been astounding," said Dr. DeVito.



# 5,000 Atlantic white cedar trees planted!

Former cranberry bog is being  
restored to native cedar swamp



Step into a mature stand of Atlantic white cedar trees and you'll instantly feel cooler. These towering native evergreens grow so densely that they shade out sunlight and create forest floor habitat for ferns, sphagnum moss, liverworts, insect-eating plants, rare orchids and swamp pinks. They also support rare Pine Barrens wildlife.

Before European settlement, there were about 500,000 acres of Atlantic white cedar forest up and down the East Coast. New Jersey alone had about 115,000 acres of cedar swamps.

But Atlantic white cedar's desirability as lumber led to its downfall. In colonial New Jersey, cedar forests

were relentlessly chopped down for their strong, lightweight, rot-resistant timber, prized as a building material. The heartwood was so durable that even logs submerged in swamps for centuries could be turned into excellent lumber.

Eighty percent of the cedar stands that once existed in New Jersey have been cut down, leaving about 25,000 acres.

But Atlantic white cedar is rising once again at the Franklin Parker Preserve! Ever since New Jersey Conservation Foundation acquired the bulk of the 18-square-mile property in 2003, staff and volunteers have been working on restoring these magnificent trees in places where they once thrived.

In 2008, about 30,000 Atlantic white cedar seedlings were planted in an old cranberry bog that was restored to naturally-functioning wetlands. Not all survived, but those that did now stand about 15 to 20 feet tall.

This past fall, volunteers helped plant another 5,000 Atlantic white cedar seedlings in another abandoned bog.

Partners in the reforestation project included the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, American Forests, and Nestle Nespresso USA.

Restoring cedar swamps has become a matter of regional pride and environmental sustainability, as these forests are unmatched for their ability to improve water quality and provide habitat for rare wildlife.

Cedar swamps store vast amounts of carbon and provide winter hibernation habitat for state-endangered timber rattlesnakes, nesting trees for rare birds of prey like broad-winged hawks and barred owls, and protected breeding pools for iconic Pine Barrens tree frogs. At least one rare member of the moth family, Hessel's hairstreak, is exclusively dependent on Atlantic white cedar swamps.

***Thank you to the many  
volunteers who have pitched  
in to help Atlantic white cedars  
and the species they support!***





2022

GAINING  
GROUND

## 8 Projects

June 2022

—  
Feb 2022★ NJ Conservation Owned  
(Fee or Easement)

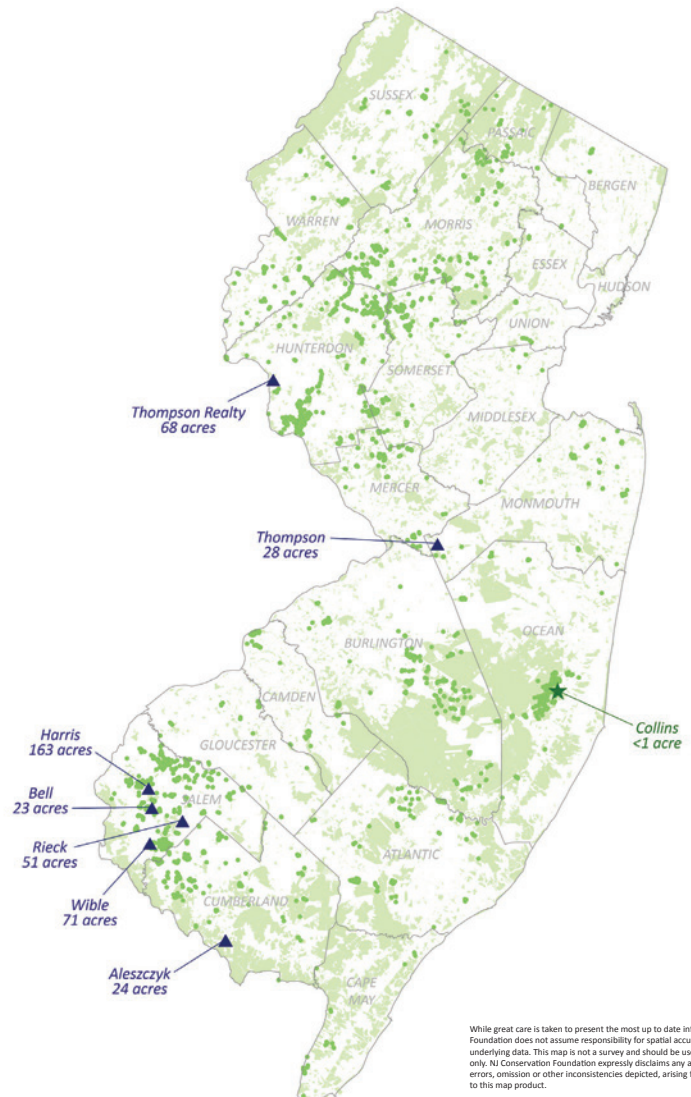
▲ Preserved in Partnership: 428 +/- acres

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

TOTAL: 428 acres

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved 687 acres from June 2022 through February 2023. 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!**



While great care is taken to present the most up to date information, NJ Conservation Foundation does not assume responsibility for spatial accuracy or timeliness of underlying data. This map is not a survey and should be used for planning purposes only. NJ Conservation Foundation expressly disclaims any and all responsibility for errors, omission or other inconsistencies depicted, arising from otherwise related to this map product.

It's easy to join New Jersey Conservation Foundation online - visit the website at [www.njconservation.org](http://www.njconservation.org)

**Become a Member Today!**





# TAKE A HIKE AT Franklin Parker Preserve!

If you want to experience the New Jersey Pine Barrens at its best, plan a visit to Franklin Parker Preserve!

This pristine and scenic gem contains 10 reservoirs, several branches and tributaries of the Wading River, two wildlife observation platforms, 1,100 acres of former cranberry bog that have been restored to freshwater wetlands, large swaths of pitch pine and scrub oak forest, and abandoned blueberry fields.

Its 21 miles of trails – some along sand roads from the former farm operation – offer hikers, birders, bicyclists, horseback riders and nature lovers beautiful vistas and quiet serenity.

Here's what you need to know to



make the most of your visit.

There are two preserve entrances. The Chatsworth Lake entrance is located at 1450 County Road 532 near Chatsworth village, and the Speedwell entrance is located a few miles away along County Road 563 (New Gretna-Chatsworth Road). Visitors must park in lots at the entrances; no motor vehicles are allowed within the preserve.

**Red Trail:** This hikers-only footpath is a 6-mile loop that starts and ends

at the Chatsworth Lake entrance. The meandering route follows “game trails” along a tributary known as Jake’s Spung, passes abandoned and restored cranberry bogs, and cuts through abandoned blueberry fields and huckleberry thickets. It loops around an old “borrow pit” where sand and gravel were once excavated, leaving a seasonal pond that is now breeding habit for Pine Barrens tree frogs and other amphibians. It also provides access to one of the two observation platforms built upon old pump houses.

**Green Trail:** This 6.7-mile multi-use trail is open to bicyclists and horseback riders as well as hikers. It starts and ends at the parking area along Route 532 across from Chatsworth Lake, and consists mostly of old dike roads that loop around restored cranberry bogs.

**Yellow Trail:** Part multi-use and part hikers-only, the 5-mile Yellow Trail loop starts and ends at the preserve’s Speedwell entrance. The trail passes Bald Eagle Reservoir, which – as its name suggests – is a great place to spot eagles. The Yellow Trail follows the main farm road once used for transporting cranberries and blueberries. It curves to follow the course of the Wading River, passing beaver dams and lodges, and stands of Atlantic white cedar. There are two cutoffs (Blue Trail) inside the Yellow Trail loop for those wishing to shorten their hikes.

**White Trail:** This 3-mile multi-use trail starts and ends at the Speedwell parking lot. The White Trail passes restored cranberry bogs and the second observation platform, which offers sweeping views of Bald Eagle Reservoir. The rest of this trail follows old dike roads past reservoirs and bogs, then circles back to the main farm road.

To learn more about the Franklin Parker Preserve and download a trail map, go to [www.njconservation.org/preserve/franklin-parker-preserve](http://www.njconservation.org/preserve/franklin-parker-preserve).





# JOIN US **OUTSIDE!**

SIGN UP AT: [NJCONSERVATION.ORG/EVENTS](https://NJCONSERVATION.ORG/EVENTS)

## CAMDEN

Yoga at Gateway Park

**APRIL 20 • APRIL 27**

Bike Safety & Ride at Farnham Park

**APRIL 21 • JULY 18**

Earth Day Celebration & Tree Planting  
at Gateway Park

**APRIL 22**

Yoga at Farnham Park

**MAY 10 • JUNE 28**

Bird Walk at Farnham Park

**MAY 20**

Free Fishing Day at Cramer Hill Waterfront Park

**JUNE 3**

## FAR HILLS

Spring migration bird walks

**APRIL 26 • MAY 3 • MAY 10**

Butterfly walks with the  
North American Butterfly Association

**JULY 21 • AUGUST 11**

Autumn migration bird walks

**SEPTEMBER 13 • OCTOBER 11 • OCTOBER 18**



## JERSEY CITY

Big Birding Day at Liberty State Park

**MAY 7**



## PINE BARRENS

20th Anniversary Celebration of  
Franklin Parker Preserve (see pg 3)

**MAY 13**





# Task Force recommends steps TO PROTECT NJ'S FORESTS

## New Jersey Conservation's Tom Gilbert was one of four co-chairs

A task force co-chaired by New Jersey Conservation Foundation Co-Executive Director Tom Gilbert has made over a dozen recommendations to the New Jersey Legislature for protecting and managing the state's public forestlands.

The Forest Stewardship Task Force was formed in 2022 by state Senator Bob Smith to study and identify ways in which New Jersey can best protect and manage its forests to fight climate change, prevent harmful forest fires, improve ecosystems, and protect soil and water quality, among other things.

In addition to Gilbert, the task force was co-chaired by Eileen Murphy from New Jersey Audubon, Andy Bennett from the New Jersey Forestry Association, and Anjuli Ramos-Busot from the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club.

After nearly a year of study, discussions and meetings with stakeholders, the four co-chairs presented their recommendations on Feb. 22 at a joint meeting in Trenton of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee.

"If adequately funded and implemented through legislation and rulemaking, these recommendations will result in significant

steps toward better protecting and stewarding our public forestlands," said Gilbert.

The report calls for the State Legislature to direct the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to take a number of actions, including conducting a statewide planning and mapping process for forested public lands based upon the best available science, and commencing a formal rulemaking process to develop management plans for public forests.

Other recommendations include directing the NJDEP to revitalize the State Natural Areas Program, identify sites appropriate for the establishment of carbon reserves, address the widespread impacts of invasive species, and increase funding for these activities through existing and potential new funding sources.

The report endorses NJDEP's use of prescribed burning as an important management tool based on sound science, and directs the agency to measure and reduce deer densities in public forestlands to ecologically sustainable levels, with guidance from the Science Advisory Panel.

To read the full task force report, go to [bit.ly/42aefH1](https://bit.ly/42aefH1).

***"The task force's recommendations acknowledge the vital role that forests play as part of the state's response to the climate crisis, while also recognizing the equally important goals of ecological health, biological diversity, clean air and water, and recreation opportunities in the most densely populated state in the nation."***

- ANJULI RAMOS-BUSOT



# 2,000+ new trees for TRENTON AND CAMDEN!

The streets of Trenton and Camden are getting greener! New Jersey Conservation Foundation and our partners were recently awarded two grants from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to plant more than 2,000 new shade trees in the two cities.

**T**he two projects were among the 14 “Natural Climate Solutions” grants funded by auction proceeds from New Jersey’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). These proceeds are to be used for natural resource restoration and enhancement projects to increase carbon stored in natural lands, including forests, salt marshes and urban streets and parks.

“We believe these projects can be transformative in our cities, where residents are experiencing disproportionate impacts of climate change,” said Jay Watson, Co-Executive Director of NJ Conservation. “Urban neighborhoods are dealing with the ‘heat island effect’ that causes higher ambient temperatures than in suburban and rural areas.”

In Trenton, we were the lead partner receiving a \$1.3 million grant to plant 1,000 new shade trees throughout the city over the next three years. Project partners include the City of Trenton, Isles, the New Jersey Tree Foundation, the Watershed Institute, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) and the Outdoor Equity Alliance.

In Camden, we are a partner in a \$1 million tree project led by the Trust for Public Land. This project will plant at least 800 trees across public spaces and at least 215 trees in public housing complexes in the Centerville and Morgan Village neighborhoods. Other priority tree planting sites include Gateway Park, Reverend Evers Park, and Stockton Station Park. Other project partners are the New Jersey Tree Foundation, Camden Community Partnership and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

## Trenton Project

Trees will be planted in areas of Trenton with few to no street trees. The project will also include reforestation portions of Cadwalader Park and Mill Hill Park, both of which have experienced heavy losses of trees due to age, pests and disease.

In addition, Trenton residents will be engaged to assist with the care and stewardship of the trees. Public programs will be offered to heighten awareness of the environmental and health benefits of urban trees.

Through 2050, Trenton trees will:

- Sequester almost 3 million pounds of carbon dioxide;
- Intercept over 14 million gallons of rainwater, reducing stormwater runoff by 2 million gallons;
- Promote tree equity and benefit 14 overburdened Trenton neighborhoods with low-income populations;
- Increase shade for residents, reducing the urban heat island effect;
- Help restore historic districts - including the D&R Canal, Berkeley Square, State House, Mill Hill, and Ewing-Carroll Historic District - to their original grandeur.

The 14 climate projects funded by the RGGI grants will collectively help New Jersey meet its 2050 goal of reducing greenhouse gas levels 80 percent from 2006 levels. It’s estimated that the new trees and restored marshes will be able to sequester 32,710 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050, roughly equal to the yearly emissions from 7,000 gasoline-powered cars.



*“This grant is an investment in our capital city’s green infrastructure and its people. We now have an opportunity to not only plant trees, but also engage the community in the long-term care that will ensure these trees thrive for the benefit of future generations.”*

- JAY WATSON





thank  
you!

**New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new members and gratefully acknowledges donors who made contributions between October 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. With your support, we preserve and protect New Jersey's lands.**

## New Members

(from October 1, 2022  
through December 31, 2022)

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William Amann  
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Michal Barkai  
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MacKenzie Belling  
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(from October 1, 2022  
through December 31, 2022)

Anonymous Donors  
Valerie B. Ackerman  
Acorn Foundation  
Richard and Julia Allen  
George N. and Grania Allport  
William Amann  
American Forests  
Liping An  
Linny and Merrick G. Andlinger  
Catherine Bacon  
Balwierzak Charitable Fund  
Patricia Shanley and Christopher  
Barr  
Bassett Foundation  
Chris and James Besanceney  
W. M. and Barbara Blumenthal  
The Benjamin Foundation at The  
Boston Foundation  
Franta J. Broulik  
Thomas A. and Barbara Brummer

Jennifer Bryson  
John A. and Jenifer N. Burghardt  
Michele S. Byers  
Roger Byrom and Wendy  
Rasmussen  
Miranda Fund of the Community  
Foundation of New Jersey  
Bradley M. Campbell and Katherine  
Hackl  
Lisa C. Caplan  
Frances Carter  
Finn and Emily Caspersen  
The Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage  
Foundation  
Ruth Charnes and David L. Hansen  
Dr. Theodore Chase and Mrs.  
Victory Chase  
Chemglass Life Sciences, LLC  
Chris M. Chickering  
The Percy and Sally Chubb  
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Elliott Cohen  
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Richard H. Colby  
Unni Cooper  
Robert and Mary Courtemanche  
Covered Bridge Trail Association  
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Tracy Cruise and Scott Daal  
CTW Foundation, Inc.  
Thomas and Brenda Curnin  
The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation  
Paul Dackow Giving Fund  
John L. and Margo Dana  
Michael Dawson and Robert P.  
Tomaselli  
Linda de Castro  
John P. de Neufville  
Charlie DeBevoise  
Jane B. DeBevoise  
Alex Gibney and Anne M. DeBevoise  
William deCamp Jr. Fund of the  
Community Foundation of New  
Jersey  
Richard and Rosina B. Dixon  
Susan Dorward  
Duke Farms  
E.J. Grassmann Trust  
Lynn and Tom Ebeling  
Suzanne Engel  
Ernest Christian Klipstein  
Foundation  
Maureen Ogden Charitable Gift  
Annuities Fund of Community  
Foundation of New Jersey  
F. M. Kirby Foundation

Clem and Joanna Fiori  
Chana R. Fitton and William A.  
Timpson  
Noel K. Foley  
Fox Foundation  
The Hon. Rodney P. and Virginia  
Frelinghuysen  
The Frelinghuysen Foundation  
Jane and Peter Galetto Charitable  
Fund of the Community  
Foundation of New Jersey  
Christine Gallucci  
GTB Partners  
The Gelfand Family Foundation, Inc.  
Alexandra Gerry  
James G. and Kathleen Gilbert  
Lynda Goldscheim  
Robert C. Greenwood  
Neil Grossman and Nancy Wolff  
David and Glenda Haas  
Daniel D. and Pamela Harding  
Ryan Harster  
Emily and John Harvey Fund of  
the Princeton Area Community  
Foundation  
Van Zandt Hawn  
Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn  
Healey Family Foundation  
Richard and Catherine Herbst  
Jane and Tom Higgins  
Pamela and Howard Hirsch  
Homeowners Against Land Taking  
(HALT) PennEast  
The Howard Bayne Fund  
Dawn A. Howell  
Notaboat Fund  
James W. and Connie O. Hughes  
Hyde and Watson Foundation  
Jim Imbriaco and Arleen Buchanan  
James and Virginia Welch  
Foundation  
Peter W. Jewell  
Carol Johnson  
Drs. Neill & Julia Johnson  
Dr. Stephanie B. Jones  
Landon and Sarah Jones Family  
Fund  
Leslie Jones Foundation  
Martin D. Judd  
Joseph Kazimierzcyk  
The Hon. Thomas Kean  
Edward and Margaret Kelly  
John L. and Karen Kemmerer  
Harold Kiel  
William T. Knox, IV  
Karen E. Kohler Charitable  
Foundation  
Dan and Gail Kopp  
The Koven Foundation  
Steven C. Kunder



Virginia Lamb  
 William Lawlor, III  
 Will E. and Mary D. Leland  
 Joseph and Jennifer Lemond  
 Leigh A. and Cody L. Letsinger  
 Richard and Elizabeth Lilleston  
 Karen Linder  
 Anna Lyles and Andy Dobson  
 James Lyons  
 Marty and Lisa MacCollum  
 Wendy Mager and Eric Monberg  
 Ronald Manning  
 March Associates Construction, Inc.  
 Mary Owen Borden Memorial  
 Foundation  
 Ellen McConnell  
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 Meredith Moore and Steve Rabbe  
 Gene Muller  
 Kurt Munkacsi and Nancy Jeffries  
 Daniel E. and Janet G. Murnick  
 The Neu Foundation of California  
 Mary Jo Nutt  
 The Ogden Family Fund of The  
 Summit Foundation  
 Dr. Oye and Judy Olukotun  
 Outdoor Club of South Jersey  
 Ashleigh Palmer  
 Margaret H. Parker  
 Stephen and Elizabeth Parker  
 Eric D. Paternoster  
 Henry S. Patterson, III  
 Paul Von der Heyden Foundation  
 Silent Maid 1924  
 Edward and Carol L. Pfeiffer  
 Brendan and Fran Phair  
 Teri Piancone  
 Kathryn A. Porter  
 Gregory Puchalski  
 Joan Rechnitz Philanthropic Fund of  
 the Jewish Communal Fund  
 R. David Reynolds  
 Ritter Family Fund  
 Anthony and Glorianne Robbi  
 Larry Rockefeller Fund  
 Rockefeller Family Fund

Ronald Berlin Architect, PC  
 Michael E. and Deirdre H. Rothpletz  
 Laurence Rothstein  
 Roxiticus Foundation  
 Richard Schatzman and Debra Pawa  
 Douglas M. Schleifer and Maureen  
 M. Smyth  
 Robert and Elizabeth Schmid  
 Nancy Z. Schreyer  
 Bruce and Sara Schundler  
 Margaret Griffin and Scott Sillars  
 Fund of the Princeton Area  
 Community Foundation  
 Sandra Simpson Charitable Fund  
 Claus P. and Helge Speth  
 Drs. Alan and Arlene Spotnitz  
 Nancy L. Squier  
 Martha Steinberg  
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 Nancy A. Swift  
 Swiftwater Foundation  
 Kathi Thonet  
 Mayor Paul H. Tomasko  
 Anne Troop  
 The Valerie Karvey Tucci Fund  
 Union Foundation  
 Victoria Foundation, Inc.  
 Mary Walter  
 Robert K. Ward  
 John and Debra Watson  
 Barbara and James Webb  
 Larry Wehr  
 Joseph B. and Phoebe Wiley  
 Louise L. Wilkens  
 Alan M. Willemsen  
 Myra and Van Z. Williams, Jr.  
 Nancy Williams  
 Edith K. and Thomas Williams  
 Currey Wilson Family Fund  
 Stewart Winter and Joseph Saba  
 Barbara B. Wolfe  
 William and Elizabeth Wolfe  
 Wrobel Family Gifting Fund  
 Aili Liu and Bo Xing  
 Beth Yingling  
 Lawrence Zambrowski

## Memorials

(from October 1, 2022  
 through December 31, 2022)

Richardson Buist  
 Jean Earle  
 Charlie and Lillie DeBevoise  
 Alex Gibney and Anne M.  
 DeBevoise  
 Charlie DeBevoise  
 John Fritts  
 Katherine Fritts  
 Mary Moore  
 William A. Timpson and  
 Chana R. Fitton  
 Jonina Nelson  
 Adam Knight  
 The Hon. Maureen Ogden  
 Millburn Environmental  
 Commission  
 The Short Hills Garden Club  
 Walter Swartz  
 Jack and June Kahrs  
 Carl White  
 Leland Yee

## Tributes

(from October 1, 2022  
 through December 31, 2022)

Marilyn Ayers  
 Casey Roncoroni  
 Alix Bacon  
 Thomas and Katherine Hunt  
 Barbara Blumenthal  
 Leigh Gibson  
 Michele S. Byers  
 Michael Dawson and Robert P.  
 Tomaselli  
 Alison Mitchell and Chris Keep  
 Ben Yaskulka  
 Emile DeVito  
 Michael and Marilyn R. Dee  
 Susan Dorward  
 Rosina Dixon  
 Janice E. Baker  
 Elise Butkiewicz  
 Amy Gruber  
 David Jones  
 Susan T. Kaye  
 Joseph Tribuna  
 Judy C. Washington

Clem Fiori  
 Daniel Fiori  
 Louise Gross  
 Frances Perlman  
 Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn  
 Richard and Gerri Hawn  
 Van Zandt Hawn  
 Happy G. Hawn  
 Pamela Hirsch  
 Meryl Carmel  
 Cynthia and Peter Kellogg  
 Joseph and Evelyn Prather  
 Meghan Marton  
 Secret Sandra  
 Alison Mitchell  
 Bradley M. Campbell and  
 Katherine Hackl  
 Karen Richards  
 NJ Conservation Staff  
 LoriJeane Moody  
 Edward Pfeiffer  
 Jennifer Bonwell  
 The Pike Family  
 Andrew Kozakowski  
 The Marriage of Devin Walker and  
 Jim Williamson  
 Lucas Reid  
 Jay Watson  
 Bradley M. Campbell and  
 Katherine Hackl  
 Anne Wright Wilson  
 James and Marjorie Kienle  
 David Yaskulka  
 Noah Yaskulka  
 Hal Zenner  
 Nicole Kurdyla  
*Clients of Ronald Berlin Architect, PC:*  
 Evan Anderson and Annie Dunham  
 Ben Bair and Evelyn Gilbert-Bair  
 Baxter Construction  
 Alastair Binnie and Zoe Brookes  
 Mo and Arnold Chen  
 Ashvin Chhabra and Daniela  
 Bonafede-Chhabra  
 Matt and Megan Daily  
 Matthew Feuer and Carol Blum  
 Constance Fong  
 David and Bertha Fubini  
 Colleen Goggins  
 John and Megan Jackson  
 Liz Lempert and Ken Norman  
 Barry and Danielle Rand  
 Ronald Berlin



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[www.njconservation.org](http://www.njconservation.org)

*join* **NEW JERSEY  
 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.



# Welcome New Trustees

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes three new members to the Board of Trustees: Kathleen McKinney Bourke of Bay Head and New York City, James Lyons of West Milford, and Jennifer Williams of Philadelphia.



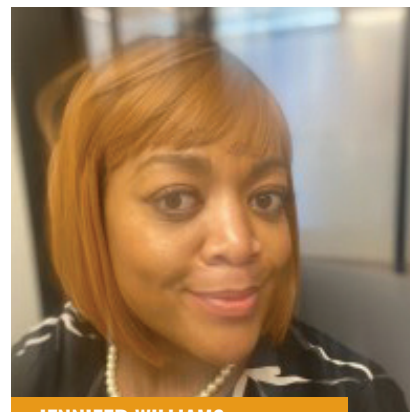
KATHLEEN MCKINNEY BOURKE

**KATHLEEN MCKINNEY BOURKE** has a passion for native plants and habitat restoration. An avid gardener, she is a member of the Short Hills Garden Club, where she has served as treasurer, plant sale chair, horticulture chair and conservation chair. She has served as a Garden Club of America (GCA) horticulture representative and conservation representative for the GCA zone that includes New Jersey, and is also in the GCA horticulture judging program. She is a longtime volunteer for Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills, joining the organization's Board of Trustees in 2022. She has also volunteered with the Junior League, United Way, St. Rose of Lima Church, and the Millburn public schools. From 1983 to 1991 Kathleen worked as a systems consultant and project manager for Accenture. She is a graduate of Lehigh University, where she earned a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering. Kathleen and her husband, Ted, have three adult children. In addition to gardening, she loves to do yoga and walk on the beach.



JAMES LYONS

**JIM LYONS**, a native of New Jersey's Highlands region, has over four decades of experience in conservation, education and policy. He has been recognized as a distinguished alumnus by Rutgers University and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies for his contributions to conservation and natural resource management. Jim was a lecturer and research scholar at Yale, and taught at the University of Montana. He held several positions in the Obama and Clinton administrations, including Deputy Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management in the Interior Department under Obama, where he advanced public land management initiatives. Under President Clinton, he served as USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, where he oversaw the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As senior staff on the House Committee on Agriculture, Jim led conservation initiatives in the 1990 Farm Bill, including authorization for a 1992 study of the New Jersey Highlands. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress.



JENNIFER WILLIAMS

**JENNIFER L. WILLIAMS** is a lifelong resident of Philadelphia with a passion and love for her hometown. As a mother, licensed attorney, college professor, and entrepreneur, she believes the environments in which people live their daily lives should be healthy and vibrant. This belief has driven her to support the New Jersey Conservation Foundation's goal of preserving land and natural resources for the benefit of all. A graduate of the Widener University School of Law, Jennifer is dedicated to improving healthcare and bringing awareness to the social determinants of health, which negatively impact historically marginalized populations. She currently works in the healthcare industry as a commercial transactions attorney with experience in global transactions, contract negotiation, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and value-based patient care. She also works as an adjunct professor at Peirce College, where she instructs students in law and ethics. When she is not working or teaching law, she spends time with her family, travels, and guides private clients in yoga and wellness.



## Welcome New Staff

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomed seven new staff members in 2022 and early 2023: Rebekah Buczynski, Nicole Ceballos, Richard Dodds, Jess Fasano, Jalisa Hernandez, Bo Humphrey and Martin Rapp.

**BO HUMPHREY** is the newest staff member, joining the team in February as Director of Development. As head of the fundraising department, her primary focus will be on building the major gifts program.

**REBEKAH BUCZYNSKI** joined the land stewardship team as Project Manager for North Jersey, focusing on improving the Rainbow Hill Preserve in the Sourland Mountains of Hunterdon and Somerset counties.

**NICOLE CEBALLOS** joined the staff as Development Associate, working closely with the rest of the development team on many aspects of fundraising, including organizing events.

**RICHARD DODDS** is the Black River Project Manager, providing land preservation services to several municipalities and nonprofits, including Bedminster Township, Tewksbury Land Trust, Raritan Headwaters Association and Peapack-Gladstone Borough.

**JESS FASANO** joined the development and communications team as Communications Manager, after spending several years working in higher education communications and previously working as a newspaper reporter.

**JALISA HERNANDEZ** joined the staff as Urban Parks Coordinator in Camden. She will work with partners to design and lead programming and activities at Camden parks, and help implement management activities at Gateway Park.

**MARTIN RAPP** joined the staff as Project Coordinator, applying the conservation skills he gained from a 33-year career as a preserve manager for the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust to practical ecological land stewardship in North Jersey.

To learn more about the new staff members, go to: [www.njconservation.org/staff](http://www.njconservation.org/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  
**Rebekah Buczynski**, Project Manager, North Jersey Stewardship  
**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  
**Richard Dodds**, Project Manager, Black River Greenway  
**Jessica Fasano**, Communications Manager  
**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  
**Jalisa Hernandez**, Urban Parks Coordinator  
**Bo Humphrey**, Director of Development & Major Gifts  
**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  
**Martin Rapp**, Project Coordinator, North Jersey Stewardship  
**Karen Richards**, CPA, Director of Finance & Administration  
**Heidi Marie Roldan**, Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager  
**Bill Scullion**, Land Steward, South Jersey  
**Allison Williams**, Stewardship Coordinator



BO



REBEKAH



NICOLE



JESS



RICHARD



JALISA



MARTIN

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

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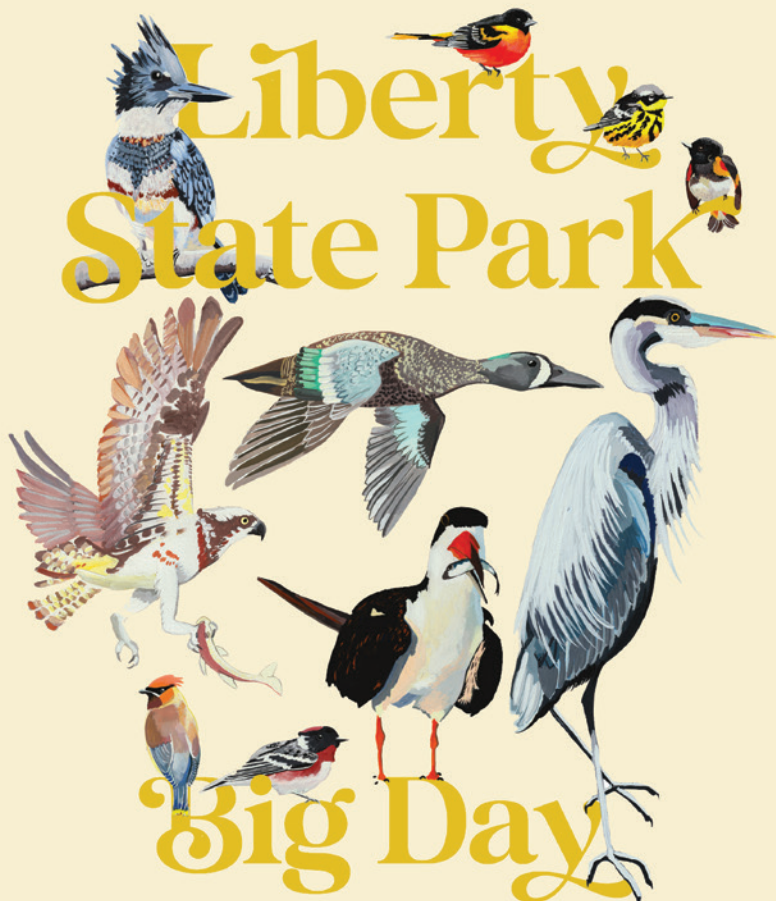
### Join Our Email List

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 email address to [info@njconservation.org](mailto:info@njconservation.org) or call 1-888-LANDSAVE (1-888-526-3728).

**PRINTER TO PLACE  
FSC LOGO**

Liberty  
State Park



Big Day

Join NJ Conservation and the Feminist Bird Club of Jersey City on Sunday, May 7 for a "Big Day" of birding at Liberty State Park!

We will attempt to identify as many species of birds as we can while exploring this urban oasis and having an absolute blast along the way!

Event (and t-shirt!) design created by local artist Katrina Eugenia.  
IG @katrinaeugenia



For More Information Visit:  
[bit.ly/LSPBIGDAY](http://bit.ly/LSPBIGDAY)