



NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION

Newsletter of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation | Summer 2004



NJCF PARTNERS WITH WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

The Wetlands Reserve Program, administered by the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), recently agreed to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 2,200 acres of the agricultural portions of NJCF's Franklin Parker Preserve for \$4.397 million! These funds will be used toward NJCF's acquisition of the property. NJCF will also work with USDA-NRCS staff to restore these areas to wetlands. We are excited about this project and look forward to this partnership!

NJCF Completes Purchase of 9,400-Acre Pine Barrens Property!

At 10:00 PM on December 31, 2003, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individual, foundation and corporate supporters, NJCF became the owner of the 9,400-acre DeMarco property – now called the Franklin Parker Preserve. For the next 12 – 18 months the property will be closed while NJCF prepares a comprehensive long-term management plan. These photographs and those on page 3, taken by wildlife photographer Michael Hogan, provide a preview of the amazing natural beauty of the property – enjoy!



Top: Wintering tundra swans in one of the Franklin Parker Preserve reservoirs.

Above: Bald eagle, year-round resident, breeds on or near the Franklin Parker Preserve. The photograph, taken this winter, shows a bald eagle perched in a tree on the Franklin Parker Preserve.

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Photos: Michael Hogan



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NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION

Summer 2004, Volume 2, Issue 2

The mission of New Jersey Conservation Foundation is to preserve New Jersey's land and natural resources for the benefit of all. As a leading innovator and catalyst for saving land, New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF): protects strategic lands through acquisition and stewardship; promotes strong land use policies; and forges partnerships to achieve conservation goals. For more than forty years, NJCF has worked to protect the state's farmland, forests, urban parks, wetlands, water quality and special places.

For information about becoming a member or to request a change of address, please contact Tara Vieira at (908) 234-1225, e-mail us at info@njconservation.org, or visit our website at www.njconservation.org.

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We invite your articles, photographs, comments, and suggestions. Please send them to: New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills NJ 07931
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www.njconservation.org

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



New Jersey Conservation Foundation ended 2003 by successfully purchasing the largest parcel of private conservation land in state history – fourteen square miles of critical Pine Barrens habitat formerly owned by the DeMarco family. We call this project area the Heart of the Pine Barrens, and with good reason... This land embodies the Pine Barrens as a whole – a myriad of water resources and habitat for dozens of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals; connecting hundreds-of-thousands of acres of other permanently-protected public lands. Long-term, we will manage the property, now called the Franklin Parker Preserve, in honor of the first Chair of the Pinelands Commission and a longtime member of NJCF's Board of Trustees, to protect its natural resources and provide passive recreation opportunities. But we still have to finish paying for the property – and we need your help raising the \$2.5 million purchase price balance. In addition, we are raising \$3 million for a stewardship fund to provide for the Preserve's long-term management. If you would like to be part of the biggest private preservation deal in New Jersey's history, please contact me at (908) 234-1225 or michele@njconservation.org!

MICHELE S. BYERS
Executive Director

New Stewardship Director for NJCF

Jon Wagar, formerly NJCF's Assistant Director of Land Acquisition and Stewardship, has been promoted to a newly created position of Stewardship Director. Jon, who joined NJCF's staff in 1999, is now responsible for overseeing the management of nearly 20,000 acres across the state!

Jon earned a Master of Forestry degree at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies – where he also worked as a field forester for Yale's School Forests – and has a BS in biology from Richard Stockton College.

Prior to graduate school, Jon worked for Care International in Guatemala working with subsistence farmers to improve forestry and agricultural practices. In Guatemala, he also taught botany and plant physiology at an extension campus of the National University.

Jon has worked as a field botanist for the USDA Forest Service, managing a research project that studied the regeneration of Atlantic white cedar in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

He is a member of the Mendham Township Open Space Trust Committee and is Land



Jon Wagar NJCF Stewardship Director

Steward of the Schiff Nature Preserve in Mendham. We asked Jon to introduce himself, and NJCF's stewardship program, by answering a few questions:

What exactly is meant by land stewardship and why is it so important? The environmental writer Aldo Leopold defined conservation as, "... a state of harmony between ... [people] and land". NJCF's traditional focus on land acquisition and public policy is the first step in conservation. Land stewardship – proactively managing land to

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NJCF's Executive Director Michele S. Byers has been an advocate for the preservation of New Jersey's land, water & natural resources for more than two decades. A recognized and respected land conservation leader, Michele currently serves as Vice Chair of the State Planning Commission, Chair of the NJ State Committee of the Highlands Coalition, Treasurer of the Coalition for Conservation and Member of the National Council of the Land Trust Alliance.



NJCF Completes Purchase of 9,400-Acre Pine Barrens Property!

Continued from page 1



Top: Chatsworth Lake, Franklin Parker Preserve.

Center: View from Apple Pie Hill, Franklin Parker Preserve.

Bottom left: A reservoir in the Franklin Parker Preserve frequented by wood and ring-necked ducks, as well as hooded and common mergansers.

Bottom right: A map showing the location of the Franklin Parker Preserve.

Photos: Michael Hogan

GAINING GROUND

With your help, directly and in partnership, NJCF permanently preserved 10,044 acres in the second half of 2003:



★ 9,400 acres, Burlington County, fee: NJCF purchased this 14 square mile property located in our Heart of the Pine Barrens Project Area, permanently preserving its magnificent natural resources and connecting hundreds of thousands of acres of already protected publicly owned land. The property, which contains nearly 8,000 acres of forest, 1,500 acres of reservoirs and wetlands, and 800 acres of cranberry bogs, has been named in honor of NJCF Honorary Trustee and former Pinelands Commission Chair, Franklin E. Parker. The cranberry bogs will be restored to wetlands and named the DeMarco Cranberry Meadows Natural Area.

★ 109 acres, Quinton Township, Salem County, easement: Working closely with the Salem County Agriculture Development Board and the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), NJCF purchased an agricultural/woodland/conservation easement – at a bargain sale price from the DeWilde family – to preserve this commercial nursery located in the southern part of our Burden Hill Project Area, just north of the Cumberland County border. The property contains mature forests, open fields, and a population of federally endangered swamp

pink, surrounds Rhodo Lake and is adjacent to a 120-acre preserve NJCF purchased last year. Within the forests of the DeWilde land are azaleas and rhododendron bushes planted by the current owner's grandfather, which are a source of cultivars for the family's thriving nursery.

★ 33 acres, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, fee: NJCF, in partnership with the NJDEP Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County and Delaware Township, purchased this property from the Jarboe family. It is situated in NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Project Area. The property, which is immediately adjacent to the Cook property (see below) and other lands preserved by NJCF, consists of open fields and has direct frontage on the Wickecheoke Creek. Its preservation protects an important viewshed. The land will be added to NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Preserve.

★ 26 acres, Raritan Township, Hunterdon County, fee-donation: The Orbach family generously donated this land to NJCF. The property is located in the headwaters of NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Project Area. The

heavily forested property contains critical wetlands and has direct frontage on the Creek.

★ 20 acres, Edison Township, Middlesex County, fee: NJCF worked closely with the Township of Edison and the NJDEP Green Acres Program to permanently preserve the property located in NJCF's Arthur Kill Project Area. The former Helstoski property – located in one of the most densely developed parts of the state – is a heavily forested wetland, contiguous with the 90-acre Alfieri tract now owned by the State of New Jersey, and managed as a natural area.

★ 19 acres, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, fee: Sold by the Cook family for a bargain sale price, both Delaware Township and Hunterdon County contributed funding towards the purchase of this property, which includes open fields, steep slopes and spectacular views. The land is located in NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Project Area, immediately adjacent to the Jarboe property and other lands owned by NJCF.



★ 2.5 acres, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, fee: Working in partnership with the NJDEP Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County, and Delaware Township, NJCF purchased this property from the Hodanish family. The property is located in NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Project Area and will provide a trail connector for NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Greenway.

NJCF FOR THE STATE GREEN ACRES PROGRAM

Because of significant delays to the Garden State Preservation Trust appropriations and the resulting lack of state funding for land acquisition, NJCF stepped in for the NJDEP Green Acres program and pre-acquired the following property:

★ 8 90 acres, West Milford Township, Passaic County, fee: NJCF, in partnership with Passaic County and the NJDEP Green Acres Program, permanently preserved this 90-acre woodland tract in NJCF's Heart of the Highlands Project Area. The forested property, which contains cliffs and wetlands, will be transferred to the State of New Jersey and added to Norvin Green State Forest.

NJCF THROUGH ITS SHARED STAFFING PROGRAM

NJCF's Shared Staffing Program provides land conservation assistance to volunteer-staffed land trusts and municipalities on a contract basis. In 2003, the Program helped preserve the following properties:

NJCF with Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

★ 9 43 acres, Hopewell Township, Mercer County, easement: The Schoenholtz property features woodlands, wetlands and views of the Sourland Mountain Natural Area. The property will also feature limited public access.

★ 10 33 acres, Hopewell Township, Mercer County, fee: This property includes a wooded stream corridor and pasture lands and is adjacent to Washington Crossing State Park.

NJCF with Harding Land Trust

★ 11 15 acres, Harding Township, Morris County, fee: The O'Connor property is located on a tributary of the Great Brook – one of the main streams that flows into the Great Swamp and eventually the Passaic River. The property is adjacent to other preserved lands.

NJCF with Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

★ 12 170 acres West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, fee: Located in the Sourland Mountain natural area, the Risi and Good Shepherd properties consist of woodlands and adjoin the Alexauken Creek Wildlife Management Area.

★ 13 15 acres, Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, fee: The Top Holdings property consists of woodlands and fields and fronts on Lockatong Creek.

NJCF with South Jersey Land Trust

★ 14 68 acres, Logan and Woolwich Townships, Gloucester County, fee and easement: Situated on Raccoon Creek, the Liberty tract is dominated by agricultural fields. The tract was owned by one of the largest corporate developers in the Delaware Valley and was slated to be fully developed.

Land Protection Laws and Land Stewardship are Focus of NJCF's Public Policy Program

The Highlands Act Passes: New Jersey's Most Significant Environmental Measure in Decades!

On June 10, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act passed overwhelmingly in the New Jersey Legislature, an accomplishment equivalent to passage of the precedent-setting Pinelands Protection Act nearly 40 years ago. As we write this, the bill awaits Governor McGreevey's signature. Its passage marks a summit in NJCF's more than 15 years of consistent efforts to assure protection for the magnificent 1000-square mile Highlands Region in northwest New Jersey. The region's rugged forested hills, scenic reservoirs and pure streams provide over half of the State's residents – more than 4 million people – with drinking water. (Also see Fall 2003 NJCF Newsletter.)

Last year, Governor McGreevey appointed a Highlands Task Force that included NJCF Executive Director Michele S. Byers, who also serves as chair of the NJ Committee of the Highlands Coalition. On March 13, 2004, the Task Force issued bold recommendations for protecting the resources of the region. Bipartisan legislation to implement the recommendations was soon introduced in the New Jersey Legislature – an effort led by Senators Bob Smith (D) and Robert Martin (R) and Assemblyman John McKeon (D).

NJCF helped lead Highlands Coalition efforts to ensure passage of strong legislation to protect this critical region of 88 municipalities. NJCF helped counter strong development interests' opposition to the legislation by organizing environmental community attendance at seven legislative hearings and by staging press events that highlighted support by local officials.

The Highlands Act creates a Highlands regional planning council, appointed by the Governor, whose plan will be mandatory within the Highlands Preservation Area, and advisory in the surrounding Planning Area. Stronger state envi-

ronmental regulations within the Preservation Area will prevent most commercial and large-scale residential development outside of centers designated by the State Plan. The Act will also establish a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program for the region.

When implemented effectively, the Act will ensure protection of this critical water supply, and its associated forests and farmland, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, for generations to come.

Transfer of Development Rights Legislation Passes after Years of Advocacy!

On March 29, Governor McGreevey signed the new statewide Transfer of Development rights (TDR) bill into law. The law enables municipalities and counties – working alone or together – to create programs where development potential will be transferred from areas designated for preservation (“sending areas”) to areas more appropriate for growth (“receiving areas”). NJCF and its partners have advocated for TDR legislation for decades. Implementation of TDR programs will assist the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, while increasing the potential to direct growth and redevelopment to areas where infrastructure is in place to support it.

TDR is not a new concept in New Jersey. It has been regionally and locally implemented in the Pinelands for over 20 years and was enabled statewide in a limited manner under the existing land use law – such as by clustering of development and the calculation of density on non-contiguous lots. However, the new law will greatly expand its use, and together with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, will go a long way to protect the equity in private property, control sprawl, protect environmentally and historically critical sites and redevelop our cities and towns.

Farmland Preservation

With over 100,000 acres now preserved through the State Farmland Preservation Program – which NJCF helped found two decades ago – there is much to be proud of. There is also much to be improved. Most of the preserved

farmland in the state produces fruit, vegetables, grain, and livestock that depend upon New Jersey's high quality agricultural soils and open fields. However, New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program does not always protect the natural resources associated with farmland, but also allows for wall-to-wall greenhouses or indoor poultry operations. With nearly half our land preservation dollars going to farmland protection, we need to make sure prime soils and water recharge areas are protected when we preserve farmland! Farmland preservation and natural resource preservation *can* complement each other.

This year, NJCF is working to establish a limit on buildings (“impervious cover”) permitted on preserved farmland, and to protect forested areas on these properties so that farmland values are truly protected.

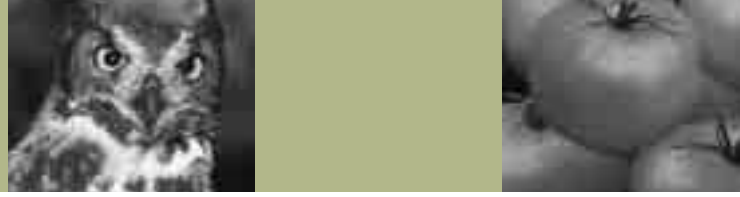
Forestland Stewardship

From the Highlands in the north to the Pine Barrens in the south, New Jersey boasts magnificent forests. A key component of our stewardship work this year seeks to better protect forests on both public and private lands. In the north, our forests are seriously threatened by deer overgrazing and invasive species. In the Pine Barrens, hybrid tree plantations threaten the biological integrity of this internationally recognized, ecologically unique region. NJCF is working with its partner organizations to enact laws and regulations that will stop the loss of critical forestland throughout the state, and protect forests already in public ownership.

Green Acres Program

As land becomes increasingly scarce in New Jersey, public parks and other open spaces are a growing target for competing public needs and desires. Schools, roads and commercial stadiums are among the uses our parks may be converted to if we don't protect what we have already preserved. NJCF is endeavoring to strengthen the State Green Acres Program rules governing the diversion of public parkland to other uses. We are also working to defeat applications for inappropriate diversions at sites throughout the state.

Lake Gerard in the NJ Highlands. Photo by Wilma Frey.



NJCF awards grants to 10 groups across the state

In 2003, we awarded grants totaling \$36,500 to 10 nonprofit conservation organizations across New Jersey. Through our Grants-in-Aid Program, NJCF helps partner groups become proficient at land conservation; develop long-term, viable programs; and design creative projects that can serve as models for other communities.

Established in 1991, NJCF's Grants-in-Aid program supports:

- Permanent preservation of land through acquisition or other means;
- Development of creative approaches to land preservation and stewardship; and
- Public education and awareness of land preservation issues.

2003 grant recipients include:

Camden Greenways Inc., City of Camden, Camden County | To broaden local support and participation in the development of a continuous waterfront greenway in Camden and to advance its implementation.

Canal Society of New Jersey, Morristown, Morris County | To acquire and permanently preserve the Riggs-Morris Canal property in Roxbury Township, Morris County, as the first acquisition within the evolving, cross-state Morris Canal Greenway.

Citizens Right to Access Beaches, Point Pleasant Beach, Ocean County | To restore a dune ecosystem that has been damaged by improper public access and to educate the public on the role dune structures play in environmental protection while contributing to the aesthetics of the beach experience.

Friends of Holmdel Open Space, Holmdel, Monmouth County | To continue educating residents of Holmdel concerning the importance of implementing the township's open space and preservation goals, and raising awareness of the role of Friends of Holmdel Open Space.

Genesis Farm, Blairstown, Warren County | To help small-scale farmers in northwestern New Jersey make a fair profit through creating direct to consumer markets and launching a local food campaign.

Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Frenchtown, Hunterdon County | Ancillary costs associated with acquisition of a property in Delaware Township.

Musconetcong Watershed Association, Asbury, Warren County | To raise awareness about critical land preservation and conservation issues in the Musconetcong River watershed.

New York - New Jersey Trail Conference, Mahwah, Bergen County | To apply additional data layers to those compiled by NJCF's Garden State Greenways Project to identify practical and feasible trail corridors that will interconnect existing trails and protected public open spaces.

Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Stem Embankment Preservation Coalition, Jersey City, Hudson County | To complete a strategic plan for acquiring the Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Stem Embankment; conduct title and abandonment research; distribute the plan to potential partners; publish the plan for the public.

Rancocas Conservancy, Medford, Burlington County | To provide startup funding for the inaugural year of the Burlington County Green Table.

Funds were also set aside for emergency grants to organizations with projects that reach a critical point and need immediate financial support.

The Grants-in-Aid Program is made possible by support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, and an anonymous foundation.

"NJCF is grateful to these foundations for generously supporting conservation throughout the state. The Grants-in-Aid Program enables NJCF to partner with fellow nonprofit organizations and ensure that critical preservation projects happen," said NJCF Executive Director Michele Byers.

NJCF Through the Years

In March 1979, Franklin E. Parker – at the time an NJCF trustee – was named by then Governor Brendan T. Byrne as the first Chairman of the Pinelands Commission, which had been recently created and given broad powers of development review and land-use planning in the region. Parker was one of seven appointments to the 15-member Commission by the Governor. Seven additional members were named by the seven counties within the boundaries of the region, and one by the Secretary of the Interior – an arrangement still in place today.

"We can thank Frank Parker for the ecological and economic well being of the Pinelands we know today," opined long-time Pinelands Commissioner Candy Ashmun – who was also appointed to the Commission in 1979.

"His knowledge of the law; his determination to pursue the unique partnership described in both the federal and state Pinelands protection laws; his leadership in bringing this unique body to consensus; and his recruitment of the best minds in the country to help to develop a new paradigm for land use planning; resulted in a Comprehensive Management Plan that has become the national model for effectively managing growth to protect important natural resources" Ashmun continued.

Parker has been an NJCF Honorary Trustee since 1994. He served as a NJCF trustee from 1964 to 1994, and Board president from 1965 to 1968.



American Chestnut sign, NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Project Area

protect its natural resource values – is the next step, and moves us closer toward Leopold's vision.

Land stewardship includes developing sustainable land use practices – particularly in farming and forestry – which ensures the next generation of New Jerseyans have farm fresh produce and the opportunity to experience a healthy native forest. Land stewardship means maintaining a cultural connection to our landscape, creating ways whereby all the people of New Jersey can easily enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the Garden State.

How much preserved land does NJCF manage? NJCF owns more than 16,800 acres of land and protects an additional 3,050 acres covered by 80 conservation easements – nearly 31 square miles. By comparison, the island of Manhattan contains 23 square miles.

In addition to managing our own properties, NJCF works closely with state, local, and non-profit agencies to find creative ways to manage thousands of additional acres.

What kind of stewardship activities is NJCF currently involved in? Stewardship at NJCF is organized into several categories: conservation easement stewardship, natural resource protection and restoration, and enhancing the visitor experience.

Conservation Easements: A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land conservation group or government agency that permanently restricts the use of land to protect its natural resource and open space values. NJCF received its first easement in 1972, and is responsible for protecting – in perpetuity – the natural resources of 3,050 acres covered by 80 different conservation easements, with 80 different owners! NJCF monitors its easements through yearly visits and landowner outreach and education.

In addition to monitoring its own easements, NJCF assists local, state, and other non-profits in developing effective conservation easement language and easement monitoring



programs. We are now putting together a comprehensive easement stewardship manual that we will share with the wider conservation community.

Natural Resource Protection and Restoration: NJCF works to develop innovative natural resource protection and restoration techniques to deal with the challenge of permanently preserving natural resources, here in the nation's most densely populated state. Examples include large-scale reforestation efforts, the creation of unique plant communities, restoration of disappearing forest types such as Atlantic white cedar, small-scale forestry projects to create rare wildlife habitats, and experiments that seek solutions to ecological problems such as overabundant deer and invasive non-native plant and animal species.

Visitor Experience: In his seminal book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wondered "...how to bring about a striving for harmony with land among a people many of whom have forgotten that there is any such thing as land, among whom education and culture have become almost synonymous with landlessness."

NJCF believes that New Jerseyans should be able to experience the surreal beauty of an Atlantic white cedar swamp; listen to the song

of a bluebird in a native warm season grassland; enjoy majestic views of unbroken forests from the top of a mountain; purchase farm-fresh locally-grown fruit and vegetables; and to walk out their front door and hop on a trail or greenway, which leads to an interconnected system of parks and open spaces. Experiences such as these enrich our lives and give us an appreciation for the natural world. Enjoying the outdoors is also healthy; obesity and diseases such as diabetes are reaching epidemic proportions because we do not exercise the way we should. As we regain more of a connection to the land through outdoor activities we become healthier, both physically and mentally.

NJCF is committed to making the open space we work so hard to preserve accessible to everyone in New Jersey, and we are dedicated to enhancing ways that people can appreciate this natural heritage. We are working to meet this challenge on our own preserves, and in partnership with government and other land preservation organizations.

What are some of the big stewardship challenges facing NJCF? One of the biggest challenges for NJCF this year is the development and implementation of a comprehensive management and wetlands restoration plan for the



WALKS AND TALKS

Save the Date for these upcoming Walks & Talks

All events held at NJCF's Bamboo Brook Headquarters unless otherwise noted.

9,400-acre Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens. This will be the largest wetlands restoration undertaken by a land trust in New Jersey, and one of the largest wetlands restoration projects on the east coast. At the same time, we will be developing comprehensive land management plans for our other strategic preserves around the state.

A long-term challenge is the monitoring and enforcing of NJCF's conservation easements in perpetuity. As land ownership changes, easements become more challenging to manage and protect. Although we have not yet had a major conservation easement violation, we are constantly vigilant!

What kinds of resources are needed?

If NJCF is to create a full-fledged land stewardship program we need to find new financial resources. We must also grow our conservation easement defense fund to ensure we have the funding to monitor and enforce our easements.

We also need strong stewardship partnerships to enable us to accomplish much more than we can alone. One recent example is our effort to restore

the American chestnut tree to New Jersey. At the turn of the 20th Century, the American chestnut, once one of the most common trees in the eastern North American forests, was essentially wiped out by chestnut blight – a fungus inadvertently introduced to the U.S. from Asia. The American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) has been working for years to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut, and is looking for appropriate places in New Jersey to plant blight-resistant trees. Working with the ACF, we planted blight-resistant chestnuts on several of our properties, and connected the ACF with the New Jersey Forest Service and Morris County. We will continue to look for opportunities to form creative partnerships.

The management and stewardship of land is extremely labor intensive. Along with its professional stewardship staff, NJCF depends on volunteers to maintain hiking trails, remove invasive species, build fences, post signs, and plant trees. Moving forward, we will need to expand this network of volunteers – and the range of activities they are involved in – to help manage NJCF's and New Jersey's growing preserve system!

Wednesday September 22, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

What's In My Backyard – Fall

Come discover the signs of the season in your own backyard or local park

Saturday October 2, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Third Annual Great Swamp Walk

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Morris County

Join us for a guided exploration of NJCF's first major land preservation victory

Wednesday October 27, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Nature's Trick or Treat Halloween Walk

Bring the whole gang for this costume-optional family walk at Bamboo Brook. Nature's tricks will be highlighted and treats will be served.

Sunday November 14, 12:00 – 5:00 pm

Annual Donald Jones Memorial Hike

Delaware Township, Hunterdon County

Join us for an exploration of NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Greenway

Wednesday November 17, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Highlands Talk

Learn more about this highly threatened, natural resource-rich region in the northern reaches of the state.

For more information, please contact Doug Held at doug@njconservation.org or (908) 234-1225. For updated information about NJCF events, visit our website, www.njconservation.org.



Volunteer Spotlight:

It's all in the family!

Supporting NJCF comes naturally to Stephanie (Muff) Jones. Her parents Beverley and Donald were early advocates of NJCF's work in Delaware Township and Donald was a longtime NJCF Trustee and past president. In 1993, in recognition of their significant contributions to land conservation in the area, the Donald B. and Beverley Jones Memorial Footpath was established at NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Preserve. On the second Sunday of each November, the Jones Family, along with NJCF and the Delaware River Mill Society, host the annual Donald B. Jones Memorial Hike.

Without Stephanie's dedicated volunteerism, this hike would not be the success it is today! What started out in 1993 as a small gathering of family and friends has become one of NJCF's largest annual events – in 2003, over 150 people attended. Stephanie does a wonderful job organizing the invitations, the hikes, and the spectacular spread of food that awaits tired hikers on their return to the Mill.

Throughout the rest of the year, Stephanie hosts neighborhood gatherings for NJCF in her home, helps with mailings and outreach, and contacts landowners and potential donors. When she walks along the creek she picks up trash. When she talks to friends or neighbors she mentions NJCF's work in the community. She is also the co-chair of NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Advisory Committee.

Stephanie does this all while running the family farm, raising her two daughters and volunteering at their school, consulting as a psychotherapist, and volunteering for the local Democratic Club, the Delaware River Mill Society, and other community groups. She is a very devoted supporter and volunteer and we appreciate her very much!

Ways of Giving to New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Your generous support can help protect New Jersey's land, water and natural resources today – creating a natural legacy for future generations. There are many ways to make a gift or fulfill a pledge to New Jersey Conservation Foundation including outright gifts, bequests, and charitable gift annuities.

Charitable Gift Annuity

With a charitable gift annuity, a donor makes a significant planned gift to NJCF – through the Community Foundation of New Jersey – and in return, receives a fixed income for life based on the donor's age at the time of the gift. The donor may also benefit from tax savings through a charitable gift deduction. A portion of the annual annuity payments are also tax-free. NJCF receives the remaining principal of the gift at the end of the beneficiary's life, ensuring the future preservation of New Jersey's natural resources.

“I wanted to make a major gift to help preserve this spectacular property...”

MAUREEN OGDEN

Maureen Ogden — former New Jersey State Assemblywoman, Board Member and First Chair of the Garden State Preservation Trust, and NJCF Advisory Council member — was the first to establish a charitable gift annuity for NJCF using this program. The annuity, which will support the long-term stewardship of the Franklin Parker Preserve, proved to be the perfect tool for meeting Mrs. Ogden's goals.

“I wanted to make a major gift to help preserve this spectacular property, but I also wanted the reassurance of a continued stream of income,” Mrs. Ogden said. “Establishing a charitable gift annuity allowed me to achieve both of my goals.”

“The partnership between the Community Foundation of New Jersey and New Jersey Conservation Foundation made the process very easy,” continued Mrs. Ogden. “I encourage others to consider charitable gift annuities when deciding how to donate.”

Outright Gifts

Your outright gift of cash or publicly traded securities – including stocks, bonds or mutual funds – can be put to work immediately by NJCF while helping reduce your taxes. Thanks to a challenge grant given by a generous Trustee, your investment in our work can be doubled. Use the enclosed envelope to make your charitable gift to NJCF today!

Bequests

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For additional information, please contact: Stephanie Monahan, Assistant Director, Development & Outreach: (908) 234-1225 or stephanie@njconservation.org



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