

New Jersey Conservation Foundation



Welcome to Fall! | This early autumn photo of wetlands on the newly-preserved Dixon's Pond property in Morris County was taken by Randall Arendt. Please see page 5 for more information.

3 Happy Trails

Three volunteers tag-team to create an online trail locator map.

4 Over Hill and Dale

Expanded preserve protects nature and agriculture.

6 Don't Stop Preserving!

New Jersey needs a long-term source of preservation funding.



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From Our Executive Director

Michele S. Byers

Let's Follow Will Rogers' Advice

For a humorist and entertainer, Will Rogers gave some pretty sage real estate advice: "Buy land. They ain't making any more of the stuff."

The Oklahoma-born Rogers died more than 75 years ago, but his words live on. They ain't making any more land in New Jersey, and what's left is steadily getting carved up and covered over.

Not only is New Jersey the nation's most densely populated state, but it's predicted to be the first to reach full build-out. That's the point at which every acre of land will be developed, approved for development or permanently preserved. Build-out here in the Garden State could occur by the middle of this century, so land use decisions made in the next few decades will determine the face of New Jersey for generations to come.

Garden State residents have known this scenario for a long time. Back in 1961, New Jersey voters passed the first Green Acres bond referendum to permanently preserve open space. The program has been successful and popular, and voters subsequently approved a dozen more ballot questions to preserve open space, farmland and historic sites, most recently in 2009.

But that pot of money is running out, and once again we're faced with "what next?" Naturally, I believe we should follow Will Rogers' advice – as often as possible! Our state needs a long-term funding plan for permanently preserving the best of our remaining natural treasures.

We are among the leaders of the New Jersey Keep It Green campaign, which is working to ensure a dedicated source of preservation funding for the next 30 years. Please see page 6 for more details on New Jersey's preservation programs and plans to keep the preservation pipeline flowing during these next critical decades.

Now is the time to act. Future generations are counting on us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele S. Byers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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. Since 1960, we have worked to protect the state's farmland, forests, parks, wetlands, water resources and special places.

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, NJ 07931.

Volunteers Tag-Team to Create Interactive Trail-Finder Map

Say you live in northern New Jersey and are planning a trip to Cape May. You know you'd like to take a hike during your vacation, but you don't know the local trails.

Thanks to the tag-team efforts of three volunteers – Steve Krakauer of Basking Ridge, Elaine Zhang of Somerville and Larry Garinello of South Plainfield – New Jersey Conservation Foundation's website now includes an interactive map showing the locations of hiking trails all over the Garden State.

Steve launched the project in 2010 by compiling an exhaustive inventory of national, state, county and municipal parks with hiking trails, as well as preserves owned by private non-profit groups.

Elaine took over in 2011 after graduating from Rutgers University, creating a Google map from Steve's database. After Elaine left for a full-time job, Larry volunteered to complete the map, which is now part of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's website.

"It's a wealth of information, and the surprise to me was how much New Jersey has to offer," remarked Larry, who frequently hikes with his wife and dog. "It's amazing how many trails there are in New Jersey and how many opportunities there are to go hiking. It ranges from small community trails to the Appalachian Trail."

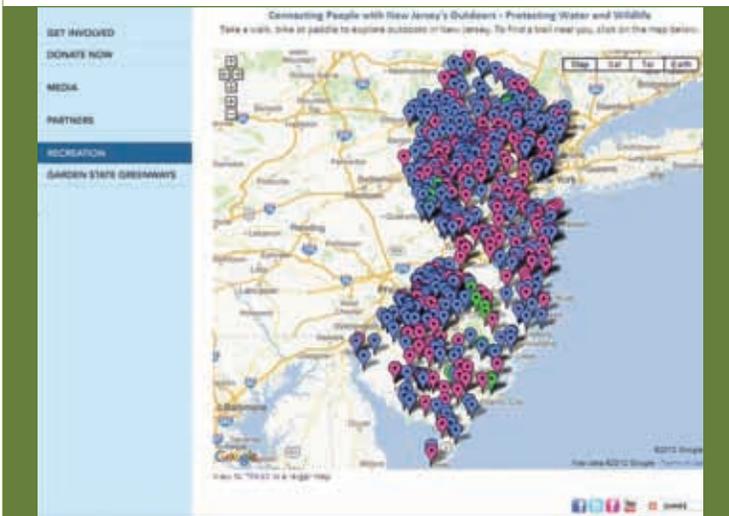
"You think of New Jersey as being very urban and lacking in these amenities, but it's not," he added. "Even our urban parks have walking trails."

The interactive map can be found at www.njconservation.org/recreation.htm.

"We're so grateful to Steve, Elaine and Larry for all the hours they put into this project," said Laura Szwak, Director of Outreach & Education for New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "This is a unique resource for everybody in New Jersey who loves the outdoors."

Of course, no map of this type is ever truly finished, as new trails, parks and preserves are continually created. If you have a favorite trail that's not on the map, or notice an incorrect location, please drop us an email at info@njconservation.org or call Laura Szwak at 908-234-1225.

If you would like to volunteer for NJCF, contact Carol Banhart at carol@njconservation.org.



New Jersey has hundreds of hiking trails! Check out trail locations on the new map on our website. The volunteers who created the map are, clockwise from top, Larry Garinello, Elaine Zhang and Steve Krakauer.

Visit Us Online for Donations, Events and More!

We're making it easier to engage with us online. Try it out!

■ **Donate now!** Your generous contributions make it possible for us to protect land and natural resources throughout the state. It's easier than ever to give. Just go to www.njconservation.org and click on "Donate Now."



■ **Register for events!** Join us for walks, talks and other fun outdoor activities all over the state. You can view our events calendar online at www.njconservation.org/njcfevents.cfm. You'll find links for easy online registration.

■ **Explore nature preserves and trails!** Go to www.njconservation.org and click on "Visit Our Preserves" to check out New Jersey Conservation Foundation's great outdoor destinations, and click on "Recreation" to find trails at parks and preserves all over the state.

■ **Get social!** Keep up with the latest news and photos. Friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ConserveNJ and follow us on Twitter @ConserveNJ



“A preserve that protects both agriculture and open space is the best of all worlds.”

-Michele S. Byers



Hill & Dale Preserve Expands

Forty-one acres of farmland have been added to the Hill & Dale Preserve in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, expanding it to 142 acres.

The property includes corn and hay fields, a wooded stream corridor and two small cottages. It abuts the original 101 acres preserved in 2011 as a nature and agricultural preserve.

“We’re very excited to expand the Hill & Dale Preserve, and are grateful to all of the donors and partners who made this possible,” said Michele S. Byers, executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. “To us, a preserve that protects both agriculture and open space is the best of all worlds.”

Farm lanes and trails surrounding the Preserve’s cultivated agricultural fields are open to the public for hiking, horseback riding and nature observation. The upper section of the preserve offers spectacular views of the surrounding Hunterdon County countryside, while the lower section provides access to the Rockaway Creek and two tributaries.

The newly-preserved land was purchased using funding from the State Agriculture Development Committee, Hunterdon County and numerous private donors from the community.

“The State Agriculture Development Committee is very pleased to partner in this cooperative project to permanently protect this farm to ensure the land forever remains available for agricultural use, and to further farmland preservation efforts in the Highlands Preservation Area,” said Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher.

The Hill & Dale Preserve is part of the landmark 310-acre Hill & Dale Farm, whose distinctive Dutch barns were originally built nearly a century ago for dairy farming. New Jersey Conservation Foundation is assisting the landowner in preserving the last 150 acres, which will remain in private ownership.

48 Acres Preserved on Schooley’s Mountain

Two new properties on the Schooley’s Mountain ridge in western Morris County were acquired this past spring and summer, adding to a growing greenbelt of preserved open space and farmland.

With help from its funding partners, New Jersey Conservation Foundation added four acres to the Drakestown Preserve in May, and bought the nearby 44-acre Angen LLC property in July. Both properties are now open to the public for hiking, nature observation and other passive recreation.

In addition, the two preservation projects protect critical wildlife habitat and water supply.

The first property expands New Jersey Conservation Foundation’s Drakestown Preserve to 232 acres. It contains wooded “uplands” buffering



headwater streams that flow into the South Branch of the Raritan River, a source of drinking water for 1.5 million New Jersey residents.

We received a grant from the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund to cover most of the purchase cost.

The Angen property, also wooded, offers habitat for several endangered and threatened species, including the bobcat, barred owl and longtail salamander. The Teetertown Brook, a trout-producing tributary of the South Branch, flows through it.

Funding partners included Morris County, the Newark-based Victoria Foundation, the state Green Acres Program and the Washington Township Land Trust.

The properties protect tributaries of the Raritan River, a major drinking water source.



48-acre Farm Preserved in Cumberland County

A 48-acre farm along the Cohansey River in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, has been permanently preserved through our partnerships with Cumberland County, the state's Farmland Preservation Program and the non-profit Open Space Institute and the William Penn Foundation.

Owned by Carmen Adamucci, the farm is located in the Dutch Neck section of the township. Vegetable crops are grown in the fields, which are separated from the river's marshlands by a hedgerow.



The Adamucci farm is the first of several farms in Hopewell Township's Dutch Neck section that are being targeted for preservation.

Development rights to the farm were purchased, meaning that although it will continue to be owned by Mr. Adamucci, it is now permanently restricted for agricultural use.

"This farm was a high priority for preservation because of its prime soils and close proximity to the river," said Michele S. Byers, executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. "The preservation effort was made even more urgent because it was recently proposed for a housing development."

The Cohansey River corridor is critical for wildlife habitat, especially waterfowl, marine life and birds like bald eagles. Preservation of the Adamucci farm will help protect water quality in the river and surrounding marshes, and the region's forest lands.



Policy Highlights: Protecting Forests and Wildlife

- Alison Mitchell, Policy Director, and Dr. Emile DeVito, Manager of Science & Stewardship, have been working with the Legislature to improve a controversial Forest Harvest Bill that didn't contain adequate safeguards to protect our public forests. A new version – which requires that all forestry on state land be certified by a third-party auditor and conform to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards and practices – was passed by the state Senate in June but still needs to be approved by the Assembly and Governor Christie.

- New Jersey Conservation Foundation joined with the Pinelands Preservation Alliance in a lawsuit to stop a proposed solar energy facility on 58 acres of municipal parkland in Stafford Township, Ocean County. Although the site is a capped landfill, it was restricted as part of a development approval as breeding habitat for threatened and endangered grasslands birds.

- Policy staff members have been working diligently to stop plans by the State of New Jersey to clear-cut a mature six-acre floodplain forest at the northern end of Bull's Island State Park on the Delaware River. This forest includes magnificent 200-year-old American sycamore trees, which provide breeding habitat for rare migratory songbirds.

129-acre 'Highlands Gem' Preserved

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Trust for Public Land teamed up to add 129 acres in Morris County to a growing network of more than 5,000 acres of conservation land in this part of the New Jersey Highlands.

The property straddles the border of Rockaway and Boonton townships and protects critical water resources, including Dixon's Pond and a tributary of the Rockaway River. Although the pond is not open to the public, future hiking trails on the property will enjoy water views.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation will manage the preserve for hiking, nature observation and other passive recreation.

"The Dixon's Pond property is a true Highlands gem. It contains valuable wetlands, as well as rocky outcrops with wonderful views of the water," said Michele S. Byers, Executive Director.



Appreciating the scenic view from a rocky outcrop on the Dixon's Pond property.

Funding for the acquisition came from Morris County, the state Green Acres Program, Boonton Township, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority, and the Johanette Wallerstein Institute.



Have We Preserved Enough? No!

With a population of 8.7 million people living on 8,729 square miles, New Jersey is the most densely populated state. Yet, there are still considerable open areas remaining, about two million acres.

Right now, about a third of the state's land mass is developed, and another third is permanently preserved. That leaves the final third – and our quality of life – in the balance.

Continuing New Jersey's green legacy has powerful economic, environmental and health benefits. Preserved land:

- Stabilizes property taxes
- Provides “eco-services” like flood control and filtering pollutants from water and air
- Generates local foods, tourism revenue and provides jobs
- Promotes increased physical activity levels, improving public health and reducing health care costs
- Protects habitat for about 900 wildlife species

New Jersey must continue its long tradition of popular and bipartisan support for open space, farmland and historic preservation. Show YOUR support by reaching out to local officials and state legislators to urge long-term preservation funding!

For more information, visit the NJ Keep It Green website at www.njkeepitgreen.org.



Photo by Sandy Stuart Perry

The state's iconic barn-logo preservation signs show where New Jersey taxpayers have invested farmland preservation funds.

Continuing New Jersey's Green Legacy

New Jersey has a lot to be proud of when it comes to land preservation. The state Green Acres program celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, and the 30th anniversary of the farmland preservation program is coming up in 2013.

Our state's preservation numbers are impressive: 650,000 acres of parks and natural lands, nearly 200,000 acres of farmland and 477 historic sites.

But the well is running dry on preservation funding. This fall, the state Legislature is expected to allocate the remaining funds from the \$400 million referendum approved by voters in 2009. Once that money is spent, the land preservation pipeline will slow to a trickle.

It won't stop completely – at least not right away – because all of New Jersey's 21 counties and many of its municipalities have open space funds as well.

But state funding is critical. Because of the high cost of land in New Jersey, it usually takes multiple funding partners to permanently preserve a piece of land.

Take, for example, the recent Princeton Ridge Preserve project in Mercer County. We partnered with three public agencies and five private non-profits to preserve one parcel!

Without the essential state funding, however, the project would have fallen

through and the forested lands would soon be covered with up to 47 homes.

To ensure continued state funding for land preservation, New Jersey Conservation Foundation is working with the New Jersey Keep It Green campaign. The campaign, representing 170 organizations committed to land conservation, environmental protection and outdoor recreation, is actively working to replenish preservation funding. NJ Keep It Green is advocating a 2013 ballot question that would establish a stable, long-term source of funding for the Garden State's preservation programs.

Tom Gilbert of the Trust for Public Land, president of NJ Keep It Green, notes that a recent survey of 600 registered voters found that an overwhelming 75 percent would support dedicating \$200 million a year for 30 years to open space, farmland and historic preservation.

Help Keep It Green place a measure on the November 2013 ballot so New Jersey residents can once again vote “yes” on preservation!

If You Can't Beat 'Em, Eat 'Em!

Tama Matsuoka Wong has an idea for getting rid of New Jersey's invasive plants: Eat them!



An expert forager who just wrote a book on the subject, Tama advocates making meals out of some of the most common invasives crowding out the state's native plants.

At a foraging workshop sponsored by New Jersey Conservation Foundation in the spring, she pointed out edible invasive plants like mugwort, garlic mustard, wood fern and daylilies to a group who followed behind her, filling shopping bags with wild greens.

Later, the group sampled appetizers made with foraged plants.

A Flemington resident, Tama is the author of *Foraged Flavor*, a combination cookbook and identification guide to flavorful wild plants.

She also serves as a volunteer land steward for New Jersey Conservation Foundation, having "adopted" a preserved property in the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County. The property is perfect for Tama, as it is filled with edible invasives that need to be removed.

Tama said she hopes more people will realize how easily foraging can help them eat locally, organically and sustainably. "I think the only thing that's holding people back is our concept of what food is," she said.

Tama became interested in culinary wild plants after eating at Daniel, a New York City restaurant that includes foraged foods on its menu. She became the restaurant's forager and teamed up with Eddy Leroux, Daniel's chef de cuisine, to write *Foraged Flavor*.

Award named for Wilma Frey



A new award established by the New Jersey Highlands Coalition has been named for Wilma Frey, senior policy manager at New Jersey Conservation Foundation, in recognition of her longstanding efforts to preserve and protect the Highlands region.

The Coalition has established the Wilma Frey New Jersey Highlands Volunteer Award, which will be presented at its annual meeting in October.

"The award recognizes the extraordinary influence Wilma has had on protection and preservation of the NJ Highlands region, in part by inspiring, supporting and encouraging many peoples' volunteer time and efforts to achieve these goals," said Julia Somers, the Coalition's executive director.

Wilma was also praised by her colleague Emile DeVito: "Few people realize how painstaking her efforts have been, from reading through voluminous reports to find key arguments, to tracking down every conceivable lead, to organizing local groups to save pieces of critical land."

Welcome New Trustee and Staff

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes **Roger Byrom** of Delaware Township to our Board of Trustees, and new staff members **Mark Barrick** and **Stephanie Monahan**.

Roger grew up in England and moved to New York in 1992 to help grow Addison, an independent communications firm. A lifelong environmentalist, he serves as vice president of the Hunterdon Land Trust, board member of the Delaware River Mill Society and president of the Delaware Township Historical Society. He follows sustainable farming practices at his Headquarters Farm, where he raises sheep which are sold at local farmers' markets.

Mark serves as Information Technology and Office Manager. He grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he learned a love of the outdoors through his interests in photography and arts. He has a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University, and now lives in Chatham.

Stephanie has returned to New Jersey Conservation Foundation, having worked here from 2002–2007. She is part of the development team, focusing on foundations, corporations and individual donors. Previously, she worked with Drew University's Environmental Studies & Sustainability Program and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina. She lives in Roxbury Township with her husband and two children.



Roger Byrom



Mark Barrick



Stephanie Monahan



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Fashion, Food
& Fun Come
Together for a
Great Cause!

FIELD & Fashion

Our Field & Fashion fundraiser at the Natirar estate in Peapack raised more than \$155,000 to support land conservation. At top left, KeeKee Winslow models outdoor wear; top right, Board of Trustees President L. Keith Reed dresses in fishing gear for welcoming announcements with Board Secretary Holly Hegener. Bottom photo, enjoying cocktails on the patio are Lisa Reed, Mary and Bob Courtemanche and Jeanne Chapin.

Photos by Jonathan Kolbe