

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION



A Tribute to Rachel Carson

Hoping to inspire 'a sense of wonder' about New Jersey's natural treasures, NJCF and partner groups are sponsoring a series of events honoring the life and work of Rachel Carson.

PLEASE SEE STORIES ON PAGES 2, 4 AND 5.





New Jersey Conservation
FOUNDATION

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION

Spring 2008, Volume 6, Issue 1

New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is a private, non-profit organization. We rely on private philanthropic support and grants from a variety of public and private sector organizations. NJCF's mission is to preserve New Jersey's land and natural resources for the benefit of all. As a leading innovator and catalyst for saving land, NJCF protects strategic lands through acquisition and stewardship; promotes strong land use policies; and forges partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Since 1960, NJCF has worked to protect the state's farmland, forests, urban parks, wetlands, water resources and special places.

For information about becoming a member or to request a change of address, please contact us at 1-888-LAND-SAVE (1-888-526-3728), e-mail us at info@njconservation.org or visit our website at www.njconservation.org.

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From Our Executive Director

“A child’s world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood. If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength.” – Rachel Carson biologist and author

Those of us who grew up in the era without personal computers, gaming consoles and the internet – a time when kids were routinely sent outdoors to play after school, with orders not to return until supertime – would agree with Carson.

Childhood pastimes for baby boomers and earlier generations might have included collecting bugs and salamanders in the woods, climbing trees to peer into a bird’s nest, picking berries in the summer, gazing at the sky to discern shapes in the ever-shifting clouds, finding crabs under rocks along the shore, and comparing snowflakes to see if it’s true that no two are alike.

If she were alive today, what would Rachel Carson think of the modern generation that spends more time indoors than outside exploring the natural world? I’m afraid she’d be very dismayed, indeed.

She’s not the only one. Richard Louv, author of the 2005 book, “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder,” laments, “I do think it’s a little tough to have a sense of wonder while you’re playing *Grand Theft Auto*.”

What’s ironic is that today’s kids can be very well informed about exotic forms of wildlife – penguins in Antarctica, crocodiles in Australia, elephants in Africa – thanks to popular TV shows and movies. But few have knowledge of the nature right under their noses.

Louv’s prescription, in a nutshell, is to get children outdoors. I have a feeling Rachel Carson would not only agree with this remedy, but redouble her efforts to entice youngsters to fall in love with nature. “If our children are not fortunate enough to meet the good fairy, they need the companionship of



at least one adult who can help them keep alive their inborn sense of wonder,” she instructed.

Honoring the life and work of Carson, NJCF is teaming up with seven other New Jersey non-profits this spring to help rekindle a love of the natural world in children of all ages. We’re calling our initiative, “Greening: Natural Connections/Growing Community.”

On March 20, 27 and 28, we will sponsor three productions of “A Sense of Wonder,” a one-woman play about Rachel Carson and her heroic battle to warn the world of the dangers of pesticide use.

We’re also planning a series of more than a dozen events and activities in the Trenton area throughout the spring – nature walks, canoe excursions, birding lessons, potato planting and all kinds of outdoor learning opportunities.

I hope you and your favorite youngsters will join us. You can read more about the Greening initiative on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

Michele S. Byers

MICHELE S. BYERS
Executive Director

NJCF Mourns Loss of Environmental Champion Franklin E. Parker III



All of us in the conservation community lost one of our champions on Feb. 1, when Franklin E. Parker III of Mendham passed away at the age of 82.

Mr. Parker was a co-founder, former president and a longtime trustee of NJCF, and was involved in numerous other environmental causes in New Jersey and beyond. His activism began with the successful fight in the early 1960s to keep the Great Swamp in Morris County from being developed for a large regional airport, and continued for nearly 50 more years.

He was the first chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, and NJCF's 9,400-acre Franklin Parker Preserve in the heart of the Pine Barrens was named in his honor.

Friends, staff and trustees of NJCF remembered Mr. Parker as a humble, gracious man who cared deeply about the environment and dedicated countless hours toward its protection. "He was one of the most caring and generous people I've ever known, and I will miss him very much," said Michele S. Byers, executive director of NJCF.

Byers recalled meeting Mr. Parker for the first time when he was chairman of the Pinelands Commission and she was a 25-year-old "environmental rookie watchdog" at a public hearing. Many residents affected by the Pinelands protection effort were angry, she

Franklin E. Parker III, right, with botanist David Fairbrothers, left, and former NJ Fish & Wildlife official Pete McLain, at an outing to study snakes at the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2005.

said, but Mr. Parker treated everyone in the audience graciously.

"When it was time for me to stand and speak, he made me feel that my message was important," Byers said. "He lived well north of the Pine Barrens with a full family and career, and he really did not have to care about the Pines or do anything for them at all. But he chose to spend huge amounts of his own personal time leading the early battles to protect this wonderful part of New Jersey."

Candace Ashmun, a Pinelands Commission member and NJCF consultant, was also impressed by Mr. Parker. "In his years as chairman of the Pinelands Commission, Frank established a commission attitude that lasts to this day: Commissioners were there to do the public's work, not play politics," she said. "Acrimony was not acceptable, and everyone knew they would get a fair hearing and be treated politely. He was strong, patient and always the gentleman."

The trustees, staff and members of NJCF wish to convey our deepest condolences to the Parker family.

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Cover photo of Rachel Carson courtesy of the Lear/Carson Collection, Connecticut College

Rachel Carson Play Is Highlight of First “Greening” Festival

Back in 1962, as the Great Swamp Committee (the group that would eventually become NJCF) was fighting a plan to build a major airport in one of New Jersey’s most valuable freshwater wetlands, a biologist and writer named Rachel Carson was embarking on a battle of her own.

Carson had just published “*Silent Spring*,” a book that sounded the alarm on society’s increasing use of pesticides. Although Carson was both lauded and vilified for the controversial book, her efforts were ultimately successful. She is credited with launching the modern environmental movement, leading to creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

Carson died in 1964, but her accomplishments live on. New generations are continuing to learn the story of her courageous efforts through a one-woman play, “A Sense of Wonder,” written and acted by the talented Kaiulani Lee.

NJCF is pleased to partner with seven other non-profit groups to present three performances of “A Sense of Wonder” in March, along with more than a dozen related activities in the Trenton area.

The initiative, “Greening: Natural Connections/Growing Community” is being jointly sponsored by NJCF, Passage Theatre,



Clockwise: The Mill Hill Playhouse in Trenton; Rachel Carson in Woods Hole, Mass.; Kaiulani Lee in the movie version of “A Sense of Wonder.”



the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey, D&R Greenway Land Trust, New Jersey Audubon Society, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Friends for the Marsh and the Trenton-based Isles community organization.

“Our goal is to increase public awareness of Carson’s message, as well as foster a love for the outdoors in the younger generation,” said Michele S. Byers, executive director of NJCF. “I’m thrilled that these eight organizations, each with its own mission, can come together on this unprecedented initiative.”

The impetus for the Greening project came from June Ballinger, artistic director of the Passage Theatre, which operates out of the city-owned Mill Hill Playhouse in Trenton. Ballinger met Kaiulani Lee in 1984, when they acted together in a Broadway play. A lasting friendship was forged.

“A few years later she shared with me her idea for writing ‘A Sense of Wonder’ as a one-woman show for her to perform,” recalled Ballinger. “Kaiulani was always an

activist and this was an opportunity for her to merge passions: her art and her environmental convictions.”

Passage had done a series of one-person plays for five or six seasons, and Ballinger had always kept “A Sense of Wonder” in the back of her mind. “It just seemed that in earlier years, social issues took precedence over environmental issues here in Trenton. I didn’t know if I would have an audience,” she said. “This year, I felt the climate was right.”

But Ballinger needed sponsorship, and that’s where the partners came in. “We all sat down together, I explained the project, and the Greening initiative took root and blossomed,” she said.

Performances of “A Sense of Wonder” are scheduled for Thursday, March 20; Thursday, March 27; and Friday, March 28.

For a full listing of Greening events, including ticket and registration information, please visit our website at www.njconservation.org and click on the “Greening” button under Upcoming Events.



Q&A with Kaiulani Lee



Lee, a stage and screen actress, created the one-woman play “A Sense of Wonder” based on the writings of Rachel Carson and interviews with her friends, family and former co-workers. For the past 15 years Lee has traversed the country, transforming herself into Carson in the turbulent days after the publication of her controversial 1962 book “*Silent Spring*.” Born in Lawrenceville, N.J., Lee now lives in Virginia but feels most at home along the coast of Maine, which was also Carson’s favorite place. She is finishing work on a film version of “A Sense of Wonder.”

Q: How did you first hear about Rachel Carson?

A: She was a point of reference for me as a child because my family is from Maine and she summered just up the coast. When planes flew over spraying insecticides to get rid of mosquitoes, her name always came up. Later, as a teenager and in my early 20’s, I read her sea books and loved them. I was not what you would call a student of science, but she taught me that I could understand sea life.

Q: Why was it important for you to write this play and become this person?

A: When I initially set out to do something in defense of the natural world, I didn’t know it was going to be about Rachel Carson. It was my husband who said, why reinvent the wheel, why don’t you go back and reread Rachel Carson. I had never read *Silent Spring*, so I started there and was horrified. For the first time I was really disappointed with my parents, their friends, that whole generation for having had all this information and doing nothing about it.

Q: Why did you choose the closing years of Rachel Carson’s life as the time period of your play?

A: Almost everybody who has heard of Miss Carson knows of her through *Silent Spring*. They know of her as an advocate, but I thought it was very important to introduce her as a human being, to show how she became the writer of *Silent Spring*. She always hoped to be remembered for her love of the natural world and I believe that it was that love that forced her to write *Silent Spring*.

Q: What do you most want people to know about Rachel Carson and carry with them after seeing your play?

A: I think her courage is unbelievable. She had no old boy network, she was poor, she was very ill, had no funds, no grant, no sponsor, a lawsuit threatened against her, and she was attempting something incredibly controversial in the writing of *Silent Spring*. She knew the book was going to evoke fury. She didn’t want to write the book, but she felt compelled to.

Q: Is the movie version of “A Sense of Wonder” coming out soon?

A: We’ve finished it and my next job is to figure out how to disseminate it. I did the whole thing as sort of a birthday present

to Miss Carson (who would have turned 100 in 2007). It is the play, but we shot it on location at her cabin in Maine, we shot it outside, we shot it as an interview. It’s exciting because now her story will always be, even when I can’t do the show anymore.

Q: What has kept you performing the play for so many years?

A: I’m starting my 16th year – I don’t know any other actor who has done that! I don’t get bored with it – never. As long as there’s a call for it, I’ll keep doing it. The audience is so much the second character in the play. It’s different every night, although the script doesn’t change. The difference is the energy of the people, the news of the day, what people are feeling. They deeply believe I am Carson by the end of the play.

Q: What do you think about the Greening initiative, creating a series of events in the Trenton area with your play as the centerpiece?

A: It’s very cool for a number of reasons, and I think Trenton really needs it. I love the cross-pollination, that we can bring the ideas of scientists to the inner city. I’m looking forward to working with June (Ballinger) at Passage Theatre; I think it’s amazing what she’s done there.

Q: Why is it important to keep Rachel Carson’s memory alive today?

A: When I started writing and researching, all of her books except for *Silent Spring* were out of print, and now they are all back in print, so that in itself is thrilling. We might have lost her, and that is frightening to think about and makes me wonder who we have lost, what ideas we have lost.

Electric Transmission Corridors: A New Threat?

Christopher Miller, president of the Virginia-based Piedmont Environmental Council, and his associate Liese Dart traveled to New Jersey recently to make a presentation at NJCF's Bamboo Brook headquarters about potential environmental impacts of electrical power transmission corridors.

Eleven regional and national environmental organizations have filed suit against the federal Department of Energy over its final designation of a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor that runs through several Mid-Atlantic states, including the entirety of New Jersey.

Led by the National Wildlife Federation and the Piedmont Environmental Council, the groups are challenging the designation on grounds that the Energy Department violated the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act by failing to study potential harmful impacts of the corridor on air quality, wildlife, habitat and other natural resources.

"The Department of Energy has failed to do even the basic due diligence and analyze responsible and cost effective alternative ways of meeting the region's energy needs," claimed Miller.

Miller and Dart described the federal designation as "a giant step backwards" because it encourages expansion of some

of the nation's oldest and dirtiest coal-fired electric generation plants in the Midwest. This would increase greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global climate change.

"Efficiency and conservation should be the first order of business," said Miller, in announcing the suit. "Reducing both peak and base load demand through energy efficiency, conservation and expanding demand response programs should be a priority."

Joining the lawsuit are Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, Environmental Advocates of New York, Clean Air Council, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, Civil War Preservation Trust, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Brandywine Conservancy and Natural Lands Trust.

In 2005, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act, which directed the U.S. Department of Energy to designate large geographic areas as National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors.



Michele S. Byers, left, executive director of NJCF, welcomes Christopher Miller to the Foundation's Bamboo Brook headquarters.

This designation gives power companies blanket approval to build new high-voltage interstate transmission lines within the corridor, even on environmentally sensitive and protected lands. The designation also allows power companies to bypass local, state and federal environmental laws.

More than 116,000 square miles - including parts of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia - are in the Mid-Atlantic corridor. The designation affects over 49 million residents and dozens of state and national parks, refuges and recreation areas.

Garden State Preservation Trust Still Needs Our Help

Last November, voters approved Ballot Question #3, authorizing New Jersey to issue \$200 million in bonds to fund open space, farmland and historic preservation through the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) for one more year.

Because the \$200 million will provide only one year of funding, one of NJCF's top priorities this year is working with Governor Corzine and the New Jersey Legislature to secure a long-term funding source for land preservation.

New Jersey is losing land at the rate of about 40 acres per day, and is likely to become the first state to reach full build-out. To help slow this trend, New Jersey citizens should contact their legislators and voice support for long-term preservation funding.

Highlands Act Challenges Dismissed by Courts By Wilma Frey, Highlands Project Manager

In two recent rulings, Superior Court judges dismissed challenges to the constitutionality of the 2004 Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

On Jan. 4, Judge Victor Ashrafi in Somerville dismissed a lawsuit filed by developer ABD Liberty Inc. that challenged the Highlands Act on grounds that it violated the equal protection and due process guarantees of the state Constitution.

ABD Liberty had received preliminary approval to build 20 homes on 60 acres in Liberty Township, Warren County, when the Highlands Act was signed, severely limiting development in the Preservation Area, where the tract is located. In his decision, Ashrafi ruled that ABD's claim was based purely upon economic interest and did not involve any constitutionally-protected class of persons or special right.

Ashrafi also held that Highlands Act provisions which subjected development to

stringent environmental requirements were a rational means to protect resources and, therefore, were constitutional. In response to ABD's arguments that the boundaries of the Highlands Preservation Area were politically motivated, the judge ruled that the true question is whether the law has a rational basis, "not whether every property was properly placed." As a whole, Ashrafi wrote, "the Highlands Act has a legitimate purpose and rational means of achieving that purpose."

Ashrafi also rejected ABD's challenge to a provision exempting Preservation Area developments receiving final approval by March 29, 2004, the date the Highlands Act was introduced. ABD had missed that deadline, but obtained its approval before the Highland Act became law in August 2004. Ashrafi dismissed these claims based upon an Appellate Court decision in August 2007, in which the court reasoned that this measure was a valid means to protect Highlands resources from inappropriate development applications being rushed through the local

approval process between the time the law was introduced and when it was enacted. In addition, Ashrafi ruled that the developer's claim was premature due to ABD's failure to exhaust all administrative remedies.

On Jan. 18 in Trenton, Superior Court Judge Paul Innes dismissed a four-count lawsuit filed by the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders and nine residents from Hunterdon, Morris and Warren counties. This lawsuit also challenged the validity of the Highlands Act and included allegations of violations of equal protection and due process guarantees of the New Jersey Constitution, as well as claims that the delineation of the Preservation Area was not scientifically based.

Judge Innes stated, "The boundaries of the Preservation Area are rationally related to the purposes of the Highlands Act." With respect to the individual landowners, he observed, "The Act provides all disgruntled owners with administrative remedies."

NJCF Receives Dodge Foundation Grant

New Jersey Conservation Foundation was one of 60 environmental organizations chosen to share more than \$4.1 million in awards from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in the latest round of grant making. NJCF will receive \$175,000 for general operating support, including land acquisition, stewardship and public policy initiatives.

The Dodge Foundation seeks to help environmental leaders improve livability as it relates to current patterns of land consumption and development in New Jersey. Dodge primarily supports efforts to preserve major ecosystems and open space; to make the link between land preservation and healthy, local food systems; and to encourage communities to make land use decisions that increase park and recreational open space and address water supply, quality and reuse, along with brownfield reuse and the reduction of environmental toxins.



Canada geese pair up in late winter along the Black River in Pottersville.



Bruce Daniels gazes at the woods behind his South Harrison Township home that remain green and lush even in winter.



Gloucester County Forest, Farm Preserved

*S*troll with Bruce Daniels through the woods behind his Gloucester County home, and it's obvious he loves the place where he and his wife, Jane, have lived and raised their family over the past 55 years. He can't go more than a few steps without pointing out a landmark or an interesting discovery.

Daniels stoops low to study a patch of delicate four-inch-high tree ferns that resemble miniature Norfolk Island pines. "They're what we call ground pines," he says, noting that locals sometimes pick them as decorative greenery. A short distance away, Daniels marvels at a pair of tall maple trees that have grown intertwined like vines.

Farther back on the 100-acre property are other favorite places: vernal ponds created decades ago when storms blew down large trees, roots and all, leaving holes that filled with water. The pools are now home to numerous amphibians. There's also a clearing where local scout troops camped, back in the days when Daniels' four children were young; as well as a stream that briefly disappears underground before reappearing.

Even on a chilly winter day, the forest known locally as Daniels' Woods is verdant with a

lush growth of laurel, holly and pine. It also contains numerous dead trees that Daniels deliberately left untouched. "I was told that I should clear them, but I like to leave them here as habitat for the wildlife," explained Daniels, who especially loves the woodpeckers that inhabit the woods.

One of the few remaining forests of its size in Gloucester County, Daniels' Woods will now become a favorite place of other nature and wildlife lovers.

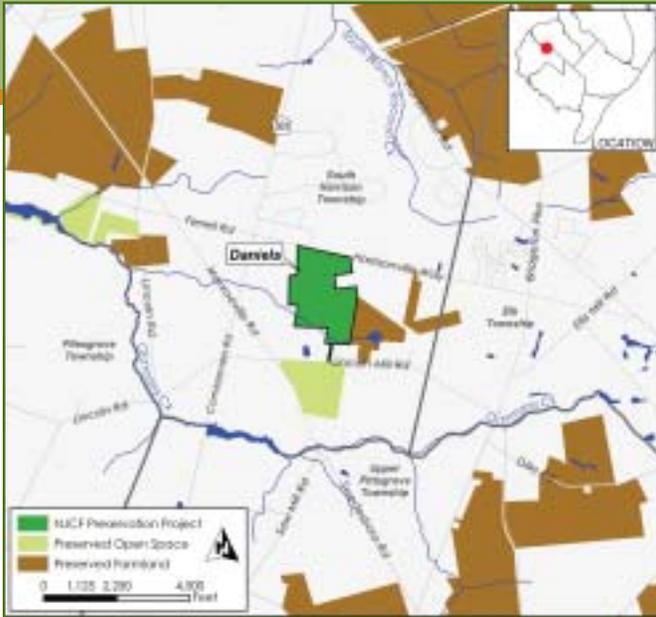
In late December, NJCF became the owner of the land and will manage it as part of its statewide network of preserves.

"I hope all will appreciate it and treat it well," said Jane Daniels, as she and her husband recalled the fun their children had riding ponies through the woods and building tree forts.

The purchase of the Daniels property was the happy result of a partnership between NJCF, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the South Jersey Land and Water Trust, a local non-profit conservation partner.

Under the purchase agreement, Bruce and Jane Daniels retain life rights to their house, barns and eight-acre pasture; and will continue to live there. The barn complex includes the forge where Bruce hammered out a reputation as one of the nation's top farriers and blacksmiths. Although he is now retired, a stack of thousands of old horseshoes in front of the forge bears testament to the years he spent shoeing horses, creating decorative metalwork and teaching the trade to students who came from far and wide.

Although there are no longer horses at the farm – or sheep or pigs – the Daniels still have two Texas longhorns, Gertrude and Erma, inhabiting their pasture. The cattle share the field with one of Bruce's wildest creations, a working replica of a medieval catapult called a trebuchet. Every fall, Bruce builds a cardboard castle and cutout knights, and hosts an Oktoberfest at which he and his friends



The DEP played a crucial role in the preservation of Daniels' Woods by providing \$800,000 for the acquisition.

"This is one of the largest tracts of unbroken forest in southern Gloucester

County," noted DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson. "Conservation of this property benefits the region tremendously by protecting ground water supplies, preserving wildlife habitat, and providing a regional hub in a statewide network of protected parcels of open space."

"This property, which is in the Oldmans Creek watershed, has been under intense

development pressure," said Michele S. Byers, NJCF executive director. "Working with the Daniels and our partners has made it possible to protect this forest for wildlife and the enjoyment of future generations."

Of the \$800,000 total purchase price, \$400,000 came from a natural resource damage settlement the DEP reached with Chemical Leaman Tank Lines, a chemical trailer-truck washing operation in Logan Township that is now undergoing cleanup as a federal Superfund site. The \$400,000 balance was provided as a matching grant from the DEP's Green Acres program.

Conservation Resources Inc., based in Chester, provided technical services to help procure the natural resource damage settlement.

use the trebuchet to hurl pumpkins through the air to "attack" the castle.

The Daniels property and its heyday are vividly described in *Sundays on the Farm*, a book written by Daniels in 1996. A sequel, with more stories of life as a farmer and blacksmith, is now in the works.

More Land Protected Near Pristine Cold Brook

NJCF's Cold Brook Preserve in northern Hunterdon County has expanded with the donation of a 15-acre conservation easement in Tewksbury Township.

Property owners Eric and Adrienne Ryan donated the easement on their property off Vliettown Road as an addition to a 68-acre easement granted by prior

owners. The property is used for passive recreational activities, including hiking and horseback riding.

NJCF's Cold Brook project area helps protect water quality in the Cold Brook, a tributary of the Lamington River, as well as preserving land in its natural, scenic state. Both the Cold Brook and the Lamington River are designated as Category One waters by the state for their exceptional significance as ecological, fishery or water supply resources.

Wickecheoke Creek Preserve Keeps On Growing

The Wickecheoke Creek Preserve, NJCF's ever-growing patchwork of protected land along Hunterdon County's scenic stream of the same name, has expanded yet again with the donation of a 70-acre conservation easement.

Veronica Goldberg, a NJCF trustee and longtime supporter, donated an easement on her land on Upper Creek Road in

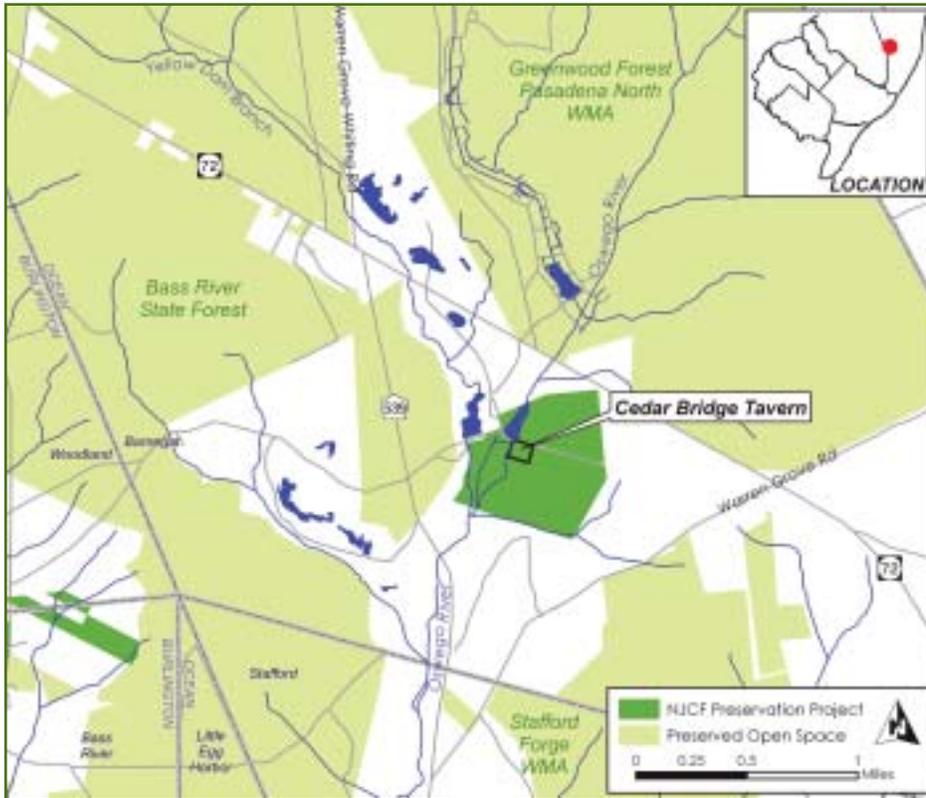
Delaware Township. The property consists mostly of mature hardwood forest, but also includes agricultural areas

with pastures, hedgerows and wetland meadows.

The easement will permanently preserve the ecologically important woodlands and wetlands. The property is located directly across the road from other NJCF properties in our Wickecheoke Creek Preserve.

NJCF Assists in Preservation of Historic Cedar Bridge Tavern

Ocean County's most significant historic site, a colonial-era tavern in Barnegat Township where the last battle of the American Revolution was fought, is being preserved with the assistance of New Jersey Conservation Foundation.



In 1977, NJCF preserved 211 acres of forested land in Barnegat Township and transferred it to the state to add to the Stafford Forge Wildlife Management Area. The property surrounded but didn't include the Cedar Bridge Tavern, which was built in the 1740s or earlier.

In order to ensure the tavern's ultimate preservation, NJCF acquired the right to buy the building and five surrounding acres for \$35,000. Under the terms of the option agreement, NJCF could purchase the property only when the owner, Rudolph Koenig, decided to sell.

More than 25 years later, Ocean County officials became interested in preserving the tavern because of its significance as the site of the last skirmish of the American Revolution in December 1782. NJCF agreed to give up its option to purchase the property in support of the county's historic preservation efforts.

"By waiving our purchase option, we contributed about \$200,000 of property value to this preservation project," said Michele S. Byers, NJCF's executive director. "We're very pleased that Ocean County is preserving this historic landmark so future generations can learn about its role in the American Revolution."

Ocean County purchased the property from Koenig for just under \$120,000. The agreement allows Koenig, now 82, to live in the building for the rest of his life. Eventually, the county plans to use the property as a historical museum and park. The building still contains the original bar used when it opened as a stagecoach stop and tavern circa 1740.

The county celebrated the preservation of the tavern at a dedication ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007, timed to coincide with the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Bridge.

Helping preserve the state's historic sites is nothing new for NJCF. In 1987, when a Camden row house on the block where poet Walt Whitman once lived came up for sale, NJCF stepped in to buy it. NJCF then completed needed repairs and restoration and subsequently sold it to the state as part of the Walt Whitman Historical Complex.

More recently, NJCF preserved the historic John Prall House in Stockton to use as a regional office. The circa 1796 stone building sits at the gateway to the scenic Wickecheoke Creek Greenway and is adjacent to the Delaware & Raritan Canal and the Prallsville Mills historic complex.

Andy Pitz Shoots for 'Silver Buckshot' on Global Warming

There's no silver bullet to reverse global warming, but Andy Pitz is optimistic about what he calls the "silver buckshot" approach.



Pitz, the vice president of strategic policy and planning for the Pennsylvania-based Natural Lands Trust (NLT), believes conservation groups must step up as leaders in a wide-ranging effort to reduce carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere.

"This problem is so big and there's so much to do, I think we need to try everything," said Pitz during a presentation in December at NJCF's Bamboo Brook headquarters.

The most important thing groups like NJCF can do, said Pitz, is keep preserving land. "Land is a net sink for carbon," he noted. "That's a good thing, because that's where we do our work." Preserved land should be carefully managed, he added, to include

protected forests and wetlands that effectively "sequester" carbon.

Conservation groups can also inform and educate the public about alternate energy sources and ways that individuals can reduce their

energy consumption; and become advocates for sound governmental policy.

Pitz, who is scheduled to lead a workshop at the 12th annual New Jersey Land Trust Rally on March 8, comes to presentations armed with both scientific data and personal convictions. After the release of "An Inconvenient Truth," former Vice President Al Gore's eye-opening movie on the global warming crisis, Pitz became a trained presenter of the scientific research compiled by Gore. Gore subsequently won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

According to Pitz, at one time the scientific community was skeptical about the claim

that human activity is causing global climate change. No more. In peer-reviewed scientific articles, he said, there is now consensus that activities like the burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests are causing the gradual warming of the atmosphere.

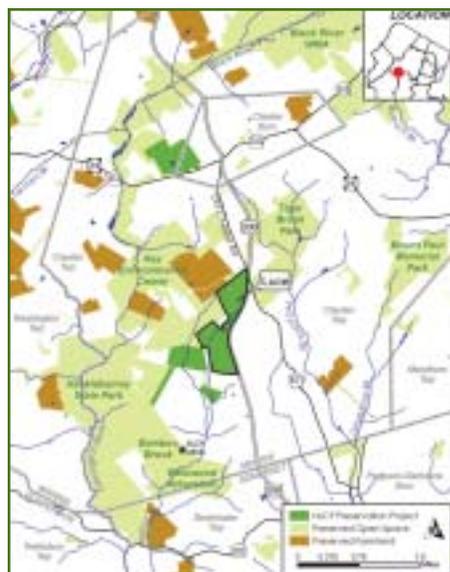
"This is the first crisis we face that affects every single human being," commented Pitz.

The bad news is that global climate change is, to some extent, unstoppable because carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. But Pitz firmly believes that humanity, through its actions and choices, still has power to mitigate the damage to come.

Because of greater public awareness, Pitz said he feels more optimistic now than he did when he first began researching global warming six years ago.

"I think we've really turned a corner. A lot of people who were unsure have been convinced," he said. "Now it's a question of the will to do things right."

NJCF Helps Buy Large Chester Township Property



NJCF has partnered in the longstanding – and successful – effort to preserve one of the largest remaining open space properties in Chester Township, Morris County.

NJCF will provide a \$500,000 grant toward the \$6 million purchase price for the 203-acre Luce property west of Route 206. The land will be used for passive recreation such as hiking, bird watching and nature study.

The property once belonged to Henry Luce, co-founder of Time magazine, who built an estate on land on the opposite side of Route 206 in the 1930s. The land was owned by Luce's first wife, Lila Tyng, until she died in 1999.

The land contains mostly wooded wetlands and uplands, although a few farm fields are

found in the northern reaches of the property. Among the tributary streams is the Herzog Brook, which eventually flows into the Bamboo Brook.

Chester Township bought the property in April 2005 with the goal of recouping its financial outlay by reselling to four funding partners: NJCF, Morris County, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the state. That transaction was completed in December, with NJCF now holding an 8.3 percent ownership.

Calendar of Events

Join New Jersey Conservation Foundation for our annual series of informative Walks & Talks, and our new Step Into Nature hiking series. The starting times of some hikes have not been determined; for updated information, check our website at www.njconservation.org, or contact Carol Banhart at 908-234-1225 or Carol@njconservation.org. Advance registration required for some programs.



Saturday, March 15

10:30 a.m. – noon

DOG DAYS OF WINTER HIKE

While the bugs, ticks and heat are gone, there's no better time to bring your dog to NJCF's Wickecheoke Creek Preserve. Enjoy the winter views and explore the trails as you and your pal meet other furry friends. Special guests will be Mary Jasch, author of Best Hikes with Dogs; and Lance Casper, one of America's top 20 dog trainers.

Saturday, April 19

EARTH DAY ON THE BLACK RIVER

Join us for a pleasant hike along the Black River through a 72-acre preserve in Bedminster Township, Somerset County. The property's dramatic forest overlooks the river, and opens up into fields surrounded by picturesque preserved farmland. Join us afterward for lunch at the Black River General Store. One-and-a-half-hour morning hike. Rain date: April 20.

Saturday, May 17 • 9 a.m. – Noon

SPRING FUN: OUR 2ND ANNUAL KIDS DAY

Children will learn of the wonders of nature and have fun at the same time while completing a scavenger hunt in our lovely park setting at the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, 170 Longview Road, Chester Township, Morris County. Other games and crafts will delight children ages 2 – 10. Registration is required.

Saturday, May 17 • 9-11 a.m.

SPRING BLOSSOMING WALK

Join Dr. Emile DeVito, one of New Jersey's top biologists and storytellers, on a hike through John A. Roebling Park in Trenton to discover plants and animals in the midst of springtime activity. Learn about the rich variety of plants and animals that live in and migrate through our state's capital.

Saturday, May 17

DOROTHY PRESERVE EXPLORATION

Come explore NJCF's Atlantic White Cedar and Pine Barrens savannah restoration projects in Estell Manor, Atlantic County. Pack your binoculars, as you may have a good chance at seeing rare red-headed woodpeckers. Two-hour morning hike.

Saturday, May 31

CELEBRATE SPRING IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Join us to explore NJCF's new 100-acre wooded preserve on Ferrell Road in South Harrison Township, Gloucester County. This will introduce you to one of the last remaining untouched native hardwood forests in the Oldman's Creek Watershed. The property includes several vernal pools that attract migratory songbirds. Two-hour morning hike.

Saturday, June 7

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE

Celebrate National Trails Day with a moderate hike over rugged terrain to a picturesque Highlands reservoir at the Apshawa Preserve in West Milford, Passaic County. Two-hour morning hike.

Tuesday, June 17 • 9 a.m. - Noon

PHOTO WORKSHOP WITH DWIGHT HISCANO

Dwight Hiscano, professional photographer, will offer a brief description of photography equipment, techniques, locations, film processing, and printing and framing. An hour of field work at the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, Chester Twp., will help you assess the artistic potential of natural settings. The field work will be followed by a slide presentation. Registration is required and a \$20 per person fee is payable in advance. Space is limited to 20 participants.

Saturday, Aug. 9

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

BUTTERFLY WALK THROUGH THE PARK

Our resident biologist, Dr. Emile DeVito, will spark the interest of children and adults alike with little-known facts about New Jersey's beautiful butterflies and tips on creating gardens to attract caterpillars and butterflies. After a brief presentation at the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, Chester Twp., take a guided walk to find and identify butterflies. Registration is required.

Saturday, August 23

HUNTERDON BUTTERFLY WALK

Join biologist Dr. Emile DeVito at our new nature preserve in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County. Learn to identify butterflies on this walk through woods, fields and around eight former fish ponds. The property contains two finger tributaries at the headwaters of the Wickecheoke Creek, which flows into the Delaware River. Two-hour morning hike.



Alder Flower



Trailing Arbutus



Conrads Crowberry



Shad Bush



Maple Flower



Leather Leaf



Swamp Pink

Spring Comes Early to New Jersey's Pine Barrens

“Bright sun, warm sand, cool breeze, New Jersey.” Did July at the Jersey Shore just pop into your head? I'll bet not many of you thought, *“The Pine Barrens in March.”*

With beach season still three months away, spring comes early to the Pygmy Pines of the Ocean County Pine Barrens, where Broom Crowberry (Corema conradii) blooms in mid-March!

Alder, maple and crowberry are the first woody plants in New Jersey to flower each spring.

Mat-forming, sand-hugging Broom Crowberry is dioecious (pronounced dye-EE-shus). This means male and female flowers are borne on separate plants, just like American holly trees!

Broom Crowberry grows on bare, sandy flats in the Pygmy Pines, or plains, of the Pine Barrens. By mid-March, with the vernal equinox only a week away, the sun is returning to a high arc above the southern horizon during mid-day. The white sands of the Pygmy Pines warm quickly, so when male crowberry plants release pollen from tiny purplish stamens, cool and incessant March westerlies blow tiny armadas of pollen across the sand flats, just inches above the ground, with any luck toward a carpet of female crowberry plants!

Reproductive success for a male crowberry plant occurs when one of its tiny pollen grains is first to land on the receptive part of a female plant, the stigma. Here the pollen grain “germinates,” sending a tube down through the style to the ovary, where the egg is fertilized by a cell delivering genetic material from the male parent. The fertilized egg divides and grows into an embryo, a baby plant encapsulated within a dry seed capsule composed of the ovary wall. These seeds seem to be dispersed by ants to distant sites in the sandy barrens, where occasionally a new individual will germinate and survive the onslaught of herbivores and pathogens to become a new adult crowberry plant!

Did a windy, harsh environment favor the evolution of the dioecious habit? There are few insect pollinators in late winter, and Broom Crowberries grow in sterile sand. Nutrients and water are limiting, so any plant on top of a small, dry, windy hillock has no nutrients to spare, but is in the best spot to spread pollen to the wind! A plant with mostly male flowers could have lots of pollen blown toward plants with female flowers. In terms of metabolic energy, tiny pollen grains are cheap to produce; such a male could produce lots of offspring with little investment. Females that catch the pollen could produce lots of babies, but only if they had the resources (built up energy) to produce lots of relatively expensive ovules. A plant in a slightly less windy, warmer, more moist site might do better to produce only female flowers, since it is located in a microhabitat where pollen is likely to drop out of the wind and land on a plant, rather than be blown away.

Broom Crowberry inhabits a stressful environment, windy, dry, and nutrient-poor, but variable to the point where location is everything! Such a variable micro-environment may have selected for long-lived individuals that maximized reproduction of offspring by being solely male or female.

Many other plant species have separate sexes, like sassafras, spicebush and American holly, all with insect-pollinated flowers that waste little pollen and bird-dispersed fruits that must be noticed by a fruit-eating bird with color vision. It is easier to see how females are driving the evolutionary system of separate sexes in these plants, because of the reproductive advantage in producing enormous crops of brightly-colored fruit to visually attract seed-dispersing, fruit-eating birds, and not wasting any space on such a female tree to be occupied by a male flower.

But Broom Crowberry is mystifying. Wind-pollination normally wastes nearly all pollen, perhaps a bad scheme in this nutrient-scarce site. Perhaps males tend to be slightly taller or higher on hillocks, surrounded by more prostrate females in less windy spots! If so, seed set and out-crossing would be maximized on the part of both sexes.

You can be the first to investigate these shoot-from-the-hip hypotheses, find out what is actually going on, and earn a Ph.D. in evolutionary botany and ecology! Or, you can investigate one of the many other early spring wildflowers that emerge from the warm, sunny sands of the Pine Barrens. Sand Myrtle, Spring-Pixie, Trailing Arbutus, Bearberry, Golden Club, Swamp Pink, Ipecac Spurge, and Birdfoot Violet all bloom in April, and each of those has its own special beauty and evolutionary mysteries that need to be unraveled. To be sure, there's no better time or place than the New Jersey Pine Barrens in the early spring to study the earth's botanical marvels!

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Lovejoy Keynotes NJ Land Conservation Rally

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, an internationally recognized biodiversity expert and founder of the public television series “Nature,” will be the keynote speaker at the 12th annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally, scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

“Besides sprawl development, climate change is perhaps the biggest threat to the work of protecting New Jersey’s wildlife habitat and natural resources. We are very excited to have Tom Lovejoy address our rally this year about the impacts of climate change on global warming,” said Michele S. Byers, executive director of NJCF.

Dr. Lovejoy, president of the John Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, served as the World Bank’s chief biodiversity advisor and lead specialist for the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. He originated the phrase “biological diversity.”

The all-day conference, designed to educate professionals in the conservation community as well as members of municipal environmental commissions and open space committees, draws about 300 participants each year. The rally features more than two dozen workshops on topics ranging from global climate change to how to engage youth in the conservation movement to controlling deer and invasive plant species on preserved land.

For more information and to register, contact New Jersey Conservation Foundation, 908-234-1225; www.njconservation.org.

Hello, Goodbye

NJCF welcomed a new staff member at the end of 2007 and bid farewell to a six-year veteran. Meghan McMahon joined NJCF in early December in the new position of Events Coordinator, while Stephanie Monahan stepped down as Director of Development & Outreach.

Meghan, who started at NJCF as a temp in August, is responsible for planning and implementing foundation events, including educational and promotional programs, along with volunteer work days. Previously, she worked as a Project Coordinator at Universal Meeting Management Inc. in Raleigh, N.C. Meghan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a focus on marketing, from Salve Regina University, in Newport, R.I.



New staff member Meghan McMahon

We wish best of luck to Stephanie as she works toward her new goal of becoming a teacher. The conservation community’s loss is the education community’s gain!

NJCF Staff

- Michele S. Byers** – Executive Director
- Russell Adams** – Associate Land Steward
- Kraig Adams** – Associate Land Steward
- Erica Arles** – Administrative Assistant, Land & Stewardship
- Alix Bacon** – Regional Manager, Western Piedmont
- Carol Banhart** – Sr. Coordinator, Development & Outreach
- Louis Cantafio, Ph.D.** – Senior Land Steward
- Aria (Beth) Davison** – Project Manager, Black River Greenway
- Emile D. DeVito, Ph.D.** – Manager, Science & Stewardship
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