

THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

OUTDOOR ISSUES

SUMMER 2018

CELEBRATING 25,000 ACRES PRESERVED!



The Land Conservancy Staff

The Land Conservancy recently preserved their 25,000th acre of open space in New Jersey! From the Highlands to the Atlantic, The Land Conservancy has been protecting land and water resources throughout the state since 1997.

“When we set the goal of preserving 25,000 acres, we knew it would take a commitment from the entire organization – staff, Board, volunteers, members, and supporters to make this happen,” said The Land Conservancy President, David Epstein. “Each of the 439 properties we have preserved has its own story, and thanks to the patience and dedication of everyone involved with The Land Conservancy over the past 16 years, we are proud to announce that we have completed this remarkable achievement.”

The first property preserved by The Land Conservancy was a 10-acre farm in Washington Township, Morris County, in

1997. The Land Conservancy now owns and manages six Preserves: Hatfield Swamp in West Caldwell, Pequannock Watershed Preserve in West Milford, South Branch Preserve North and South in Mount Olive, Ramapo Mountain Preserve in Mahwah, and the newest addition, the 170-acre West Brook Preserve in West Milford.

The centerpiece of The Land Conservancy’s restoration efforts and land management program is the 405-acre South Branch Preserve located at the headwaters of the South Branch of the Raritan River in Mt. Olive. South Branch Preserve protects watershed land that services over 1½ million New Jersey residents.

Over the years The Land Conservancy has added land to ten different county parks in New Jersey and has helped purchase flood-prone homes to assist landowners and turn the land into recreation areas.

“Our Land Team is a group of extremely dedicated individuals who are committed not only to the concept of land conservation, but to working with and serving the landowners, farmers, and even flooded families that we complete transactions with,” said Sandy Urgo, Vice President of Land Preservation. “We celebrate permanent preservation of important natural and agricultural resources, as well as the opportunity to improve the lives of the landowners and homeowners who we work with. We are honored to have teamed up with everyone at The Land Conservancy to reach this important goal.”

“Congratulations to everyone involved with us at The Land Conservancy. From landowners to funders, from staff negotiators to Trustees, everyone has played a role in making this incredible conservation success of 25,000 acres possible,” said David Epstein.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



While The Land Conservancy has always focused on preserving more of New Jersey’s vanishing open spaces, we have come to recognize that restoring some of our tarnished natural treasures is an important next step. Preserving more privately owned undeveloped land is critical, but at least some will need to be restored to ensure New Jersey’s natural systems are sustainable into the future.

Restoration is new to The Land Conservancy. Our first project restored devastated streams at the Rezamir housing development in 2009. Our latest restoration project is perhaps our most ambitious yet – to restore the headwaters of the West Brook and its adjacent wetlands.

Our West Brook Preserve totals 198 acres in West Milford, two-thirds of which is pristine, with a mature forest and intact understory. The West Brook, which begins on the Preserve, is an important water source for the Wanaque Reservoir where 2 million state residents get their drinking water. Unfortunately, a portion of the stream near the road was channelized in the past to facilitate development of the property. This is now a large muddy ditch that acts as a drain to empty the wetlands as quickly as possible and helps to exacerbate droughts.

We began the restoration work in May by removing a dilapidated house, shed, septic field, and well while installing a gravel parking lot in their place for public use. We also completed a hydrology report that analyzed the impact of the ditch, and recommended strategies to properly restore this portion of the West Brook back into its natural channel to optimize year round water flow into the reservoir. The project includes removing a small dam and three culverts, plugging the ditch and re-flooding the former stream channel. We will also create a series of small pools in the stream to enhance habitat for native eastern brook trout, which are still present on the property.

Restoration projects like the West Brook Preserve are a critical example of how streams can be restored to sustainably provide high-quality drinking water for New Jersey residents into the future. The West Brook restoration is estimated to cost approximately \$300,000, and we have begun raising the funds to complete this important work. Support from our members makes projects like this possible, please join us in making this critical project a reality by making a special contribution to the West Brook restoration project.

David Epstein, President

GET MORE FROM THE LAND CONSERVANCY AT TLC-NJ.ORG

Our website features plenty of information on everything we offer, including the latest news and events!

- Explore our preserves with photos, maps, and history
- Get involved with upcoming volunteer opportunities
- Stay up to date with our Blog



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BINDON FARM PRESERVED



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey recently preserved the 67-acre Bindon Farm, located in Bedminster Township. The landowner, the late Alice Lorillard, wished to preserve her scenic hay farm and it is now part of the area’s growing farm belt.

“Alice Lorillard was an avid conservationist and was determined to preserve her farm. The Land Conservancy is delighted to have helped her realize her dream,” said The Land Conservancy President, David Epstein. “The farm is important to the agricultural landscape of Bedminster Township, as it lies in the center of a swath of preserved land and farms, which now totals 480 acres with the addition of Bindon Farm.”

“Preservation of a development easement on the Bindon farm is an excellent purchase in that it builds upon the previous preserved easements in the immediate area,” said Somerset County Freeholder Mark Caliguire, liaison to the county’s Agriculture Development Board. “This creates a cluster that allows for current and future farming operations to thrive and advance good agriculture and opportunities for locally grown products.”

Funding partners for this project were The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), Somerset County Agriculture Development Board, Township of Bedminster, and Lamington Conservancy.

DRWI BUILDS ON CONSERVATION SUCCESSSES

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is a leading partner to protect clean water as a member of the ground-breaking Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) supported by the William Penn Foundation.



this exciting initiative, including land in the Upper Musconetcong, Paulinskill, and Lopatcong watersheds.

“Protection of drinking water is a priority for The Land Conservancy of New Jersey,” stated Barbara Heskins Davis,

Vice President of Programs for The Land Conservancy. “Preservation of land in the Delaware River Watershed in northern New Jersey has greatly accelerated due to the financial support and backing of the William Penn Foundation. With their support, we have been able to provide much-needed dollars to close the gap on projects to protect key watershed lands in Sussex and Warren Counties.”

This additional \$42 million, three-year investment builds on initial successes to protect and restore an estimated 43,484 additional acres and continue science-driven, data-informed efforts to secure clean, abundant water in the basin. The Initiative provides a replicable model that can be used to improve water health across the country.

The William Penn Foundation recently announced more than \$42 million in new funding for the DRWI, a first-of-its-kind collaboration involving 65 non-governmental organizations working together to protect and restore the Delaware River and its tributaries, which provide drinking water for 15 million people in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware.

At a time when the federal government is redefining its role in environmental protection, leadership by public agencies and nonprofit organizations at the state and local levels is more important than ever to keep our water clean.

The Land Conservancy has protected over 1,000 acres of land in the Delaware Watershed as part of

GOATS AND SHEEP ASSIST AT SOUTH BRANCH PRESERVE



Project Chew is a restoration project at South Branch Preserve that is being conducted by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey in partnership with Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

our Chew Crew goats and sheep, the invasive plants will be largely decimated. Eventually we will begin planting native species, which once established will shade out new invasive plants.

“We are very excited to have launched Project Chew at South Branch Preserve and enabled the reclamation of this 4-acre area that was overwhelmed by mile-a-minute weed without the use of chemical sprays,” said Sandy Urgo, Vice President of Land Preservation. “We appreciate the support and cooperation of our partners, Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary and New Jersey Water Supply Authority.”

You can assist our efforts by learning about invasive plant species and planting only native plants at your own home, thereby doing your part to reduce the spread and threat of non-native, invasive plants.

Over the next three years Project Chew will attempt to eradicate non-native invasive plants in this approximately 4-acre area of the Preserve, without the use of chemical sprays. The invasive plant species being targeted include mile-a-minute weed, mugwort, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and oriental bittersweet. Our hope is that after three years of being impacted by

SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDE A GREEN FUTURE



Justin Rozema



Patrick Carney

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey continues to prioritize educational support for the next generation of New Jersey environmentalists. The foresight of our members and Trustees has enabled us to offer two scholarships each year to deserving college students from New Jersey who are planning environmental careers in their home state.

The 2018 recipients of the Rogers Family Scholarship, Patrick Carney of River Edge, and the Russell W. Myers Scholarship, Justin Rozema of North Haledon, have not only achieved academic excellence, but embody many values of the organization, including demonstrated leadership and a commitment to volunteer service.

A graduate of River Dell High School, Patrick Carney is currently pursuing a double major in wildlife and insect ecology and conservation at the University of Delaware. He is president of his university Entomology Club and Blue Hen Birding, which, for the past two years, has fielded a team in New Jersey’s World Series of Birding, raising \$1,200 for the protection of vital bird habitat in the state.

“I see myself not only having a career in environmental work, but continuing to volunteer with groups

dedicated to making a difference for New Jersey’s environment,” said Patrick.

A graduate of Eastern Christian High School, Justin Rozema attends Paul Smith’s College where he is a Fisheries and wildlife science major with a minor in

chemistry. For two summers, Justin has been selected by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to be a Seasonal Freshwater Fisheries Technician assisting top fisheries biologists in the collection of data on numerous water bodies throughout the state.

“It’s an amazing honor to be this year’s recipient of the Russell W. Myers Scholarship,” said Justin. “I hope to obtain a master’s degree and become a fisheries biologist for New Jersey.”

Russell W. Myers was the first Director of the Morris County Park Commission and the founder of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. The Rogers Family Scholarship was established by Conservancy Trustee Emeritus Gray Rogers and his wife, Mollie, to expand the non-profit organization’s educational support for outstanding students dedicated to a greener, healthier future for New Jersey.

Since 1983, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey has awarded \$240,000 in scholarship funds as well as provided more than 85 paid internships.

Applications for the 2019 Scholarships will be available at tlc-nj.org by January 1. This year’s scholarships totaled \$15,000.

2018 WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING



The Highlands Hawks

The 2018 World Series of Birding “Big Day” was on May 12! Organized each year by the New Jersey Audubon Society, The World Series of Birding is a contest where skilled birders compete as teams to see who can record the most species of birds in one day while raising thousands of dollars for conservation organizations and taking a critical inventory of migratory bird species.

Over 60 teams participated throughout the state, including our own Highlands Hawks, in this environmental treasure hunt.

“We started at midnight at the Vernon Crossings marsh. In the afternoon we headed to Culver and Swartswood Lakes, and we ended our day at Hyper Humus. It rained off and on every few hours through the entire day, so we didn’t get any nocturnal migrants and it probably kept things a little quieter than usual,” said team member Stephen Kloiber.

The Highlands Hawks spotted 122 species, helping The Land Conservancy of New Jersey preserve more land and protect critical habitat and wildlife, the heart of our work, by raising \$14,000.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Communications and Development Administrator: The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is seeking an outgoing and creative individual with exceptional writing skills. Under the direction of the Development Director, this role will be responsible for overseeing a wide range of communications and development activities. An integral part of this position will be writing all content for print and digital media.

To Apply: Please send resume, cover letter, and a writing sample to hr@tlc-nj.org. Please include "Communications and Development Administrator" in the subject line.

Internship, Planning Department: This position involves writing, technical research, data analysis, and mapping; and assisting with the completion of plans and grants. Applicants should have expertise in Microsoft Excel and Word, and primary data research. Independent workers with organized and clear writing skills will excel in this position.

To Apply: This paid internship position is available immediately, and we will provide documentation of internship status for academic credit. Please email your resume and a writing sample to: hr@tlc-nj.org and put Planning Internship in the subject line of your email.

Volunteers Wanted: We are always looking for volunteers for a variety of projects around our office. In addition, we are currently looking for a handy person. Contact Barbara McCloskey at bmccloskey@tlc-nj.org or 973-541-1010 x14 for more information

MAKE OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATER A PART OF YOUR LEGACY!



South Branch Preserve, Mt. Olive

Thanks to the work you support through The Land Conservancy, this beautiful landscape will remain unspoiled today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Did you know that there are ways for YOU to leave a lasting legacy that includes fresh air, pristine, drinkable, water, and open spaces? You can support the work of The Land Conservancy in addition to your

membership and annual gifts by joining the Legacy Giving Circle.

The Legacy Giving Circle honors those who have made bequests or life income gifts to The Land Conservancy knowing that their gifts will help protect land and water resources in the Garden State for years to come.

There are a variety of options for you to continue the vital work of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey through your will or estate plan. To join the Legacy Giving Circle, you can make a gift through a variety of vehicles:

- Bequest in your will
- Charitable gift annuity
- Name The Land Conservancy as a beneficiary of your life insurance
- Gift names in your Trust
- Gift from retirement account

Your contribution will sustain The Land Conservancy's efforts in three vital areas - Preservation, Stewardship, and Education. Please join us in making New Jersey an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

For more information on Planned Giving please contact Danielle in our Development Department at ext.25 or dwolfrum@tlc-nj.org.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2018 GRAY CUP GOLF CLASSIC

Join us for the *10th Annual Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic* to be held on Monday, September 17, 2018, at the exclusive Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville.



Somerset Hills Country Club

Enjoy a fantastic day of golf at this widely acclaimed venue while helping The Land Conservancy of New Jersey continue its state-wide, award-winning programs in land preservation, stewardship, and education.

The Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic is named in honor of dedicated conservationist C. Graydon "Gray" Rogers for his many years of service to The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, including 10 years on the Board of Trustees and three years as Chairman

of the Board.

This will be the second year The Gray Cup will feature a tennis option on the beautiful grass courts at Somerset Hills. Registration includes tennis, court-side refreshments, evening cocktails, and buffet dinner

reception.

Check-in for the event begins at 10 a.m., and the cost for an individual player is \$650.00, which covers greens fees, cart, lunch, cocktail reception, buffet dinner, and multiple course contests, including the Hole-in-One. There are many other opportunities to participate, including foursome packages and business sponsorships.

For more information, go to tlc-nj.org/golf

GRAN FONDO NJ: RIDE WITH TEAM PRESERVATION!

Ride with Team Preservation in GRAN FONDO NJ on Sunday, September 9, 2018!

Gran Fondos, which are to cyclists what a marathon is for runners, have become the most popular mass-participation events for cycling enthusiasts in North America.

This will be the fourth year Team Preservation is riding in Gran Fondo NJ, and last year they raised over **\$11,000** for The Land Conservancy. For riders and team captains who agree to fundraise on behalf of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, we will provide a



2017 Team Preservation

custom-made Land Conservancy cycling jersey for the event and cover all of the registration costs for the Gran Fondo. The Gran Fondo NJ ride offers a choice of route lengths (107, 75, 62, 42, and 18 miles) and timed hill segments.

Gran Fondo NJ is more than just a bike ride, it is a food festival and expo with activities and entertainment for the entire family to enjoy while raising funds to help preserve the landscapes you love. *For more information, go to tlc-nj.org/fondo*



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Check out our Blog for The Land Conservancy's latest news and events!

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