The Ryan property is an important 10-acre preservation project in West Milford Township.

Ten acres may not sound like a significant land preservation project, but when a bank foreclosed on a homeowner struggling with flood damage we saw a chance to secure the Terrace Pond North Trail, which connects the Abram S. Hewitt State Forest to Wawayanda State Park, perched between Passaic and Sussex counties.

“The homeowner is a hero for generously allowing trail access on her private property for years. We appreciate all of her help preserving this land,” said Sandy Urgo, Vice President, Land Preservation.

By securing a Nonprofit Planning Incentive Grant from New Jersey’s Green Acres Program as well as funding from a private donor through our “Over the Top” program, the property was purchased, and we oversaw demolition of the house and its remnants. Ownership will be transferred to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Our partner, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, also provided funds from their own Nonprofit Planning Incentive Grant, and will continue to maintain the trail with this important new section.

“This has been one of my favorite projects,” expressed Linda Gloshinski, our Land Preservation Specialist who led the effort to preserve these acres. “It is a win-win. We preserved a beautiful piece of property, protected habitat, provided a connection to the Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, and expanded Wawayanda State Park. I am looking forward to joining all of the enthusiastic hikers on the Terrace Pond North Trail this summer,” she added.

If this property had not become available, this section of the Terrace Pond North Trail would need to be moved to the west of the ridge, causing the trail to pass through habitat critical to the timber rattlesnake, an endangered species that helps control rodent populations.

“This preservation effort has been rewarding on so many levels,” agreed Sandy Urgo. Acknowledging the importance of our “Over the Top” donors to this and other projects, she explained, “So much of our work would not be possible without the assistance of the wonderful and dedicated contributors who jump in to make the difference.”
For the past 20 years, protecting our drinking water has been a priority in The Land Conservancy’s land preservation efforts, especially in the Highlands. Over the past two decades with your support, we have preserved 18,500 acres in the Highlands Region, which provides two-thirds of the state’s drinking water. Now, we are working to preserve one of the most important privately held watershed properties in northern New Jersey.

This 170-acre property in West Milford contains the headwaters of the West Brook, a stream that flows into the Wanaque Reservoir, the largest in the state. This reservoir provides clean drinking water for approximately 2 million New Jersey residents, and 15 percent of the water that flows into the Wanaque Reservoir comes from this stream. The Land Conservancy is working to acquire and restore this spectacular property, our future West Brook Preserve. Vast wetlands around the stream once acted as a sink to store water and release it year-round, maintaining water flows into the reservoir even during the driest months.

Unfortunately, a previously excavated ditch diverts water from a portion of the brook, acting as a drain to empty the wetlands quickly, exacerbating droughts and leaving no water to flow into the reservoir in drier months. Thanks to some amazing donors and foundations, we have raised most of the private funds necessary to preserve this critical property by December. After we close, we will start on Phase II, the restoration work. We will need additional funds to plug the ditch and restore water flows to the original stream bed, providing cleaner water year round to the Wanaque Reservoir and the people who rely on it.

The recently released Water Supply Master Plan stated that we are experiencing water supply deficits in some regions of the state, and will experience droughts if we don’t improve our overall water conservation efforts while protecting our existing supplies and watersheds. Your membership and ongoing support of The Land Conservancy helps address this pressing issue and makes projects like the West Brook Preserve possible for the benefit of millions of our friends and neighbors. In these times, as you think about what you can do to help improve the future of our state and how you can make a difference, please continue to donate and support this critical work. Your membership is making a difference, and we can’t do it without you!

David Epstein, President
Malon’s Farm, a beautiful 62-acre rolling hay farm in Warren County, has been preserved by Hope Township and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey with generous grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

“The Freeholders and I are pleased to have helped preserve the Malon farm. We thank Hope Township and the State Agriculture Development Committee for their funding assistance, and we also thank The Land Conservancy of New Jersey for all their hard work on this project. Last but not least, the Malon family deserves special thanks for choosing to preserve their beautiful farm for future generations,” said Corey Tierney, Director of Land Preservation for Warren County.

Malon Farm is the 18th farm to be preserved in Hope Township, and sits within a half a mile of two other large preserved farms and New Jersey’s Jenny Jump State Forest. A total of 1,427 acres is now permanently preserved as farmland throughout the township, according to Bob May, Chairman of Hope Township’s Agriculture Advisory Committee.

This farm was preserved as a result of an application to the Hope Township Municipal Farmland Preservation Program.

“Hope Township continues to invest in opportunities that will help preserve the beauty of our community. Farmland and open space are what attracted people to Hope Township, and we need to make sure the future generation of Hope residents have the opportunity to enjoy that beauty as well,” said Mayor Timothy McDonough.

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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The 2017 World Series of Birding “Big Day” was on May 6! 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. Top-placing teams have sighted one-third of all of the species of birds known in North America, right here in New Jersey - in one day.

The Highlands Hawks spotted 123 species, helping The Land Conservancy of New Jersey preserve more land and protect critical habitat and wildlife, the heart of our work. Last year, the World Series of Birding raised over $14,000 for The Land Conservancy.

“We started at midnight and picked up Swamp Sparrow, Sora, Virginia Rail, Killdeer, and Marsh Wren. We headed to our dawn spot around 5:30 and added a lot of birds including Nashville, Blackburnian, Hooded, and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Duck, then got Ruffed Grouse and Tennessee and Golden-winged Warbler just down the road,” said Stephen Kloiber, of The Highlands Hawks.

“A brief stop at Hyper Humus Marsh added Cooper’s Hawk and Pied-billed Grebe to the list and more Virginia Rails calling as dark clouds started rolling in; we decided to call it around 10 p.m. and headed home,” he added.

Visit www.tlc-nj.org/birding to make a donation and support The Highlands Hawks.

The Land Conservancy celebrated Earth Month by hosting two Community Volunteer Days.

Employees from Signet Financial Management arrived on a rainy day to help us with spring clean-up at our headquarters, Wild Acres Preserve, while members of the Denville-Rockaway Woman’s club assisted indoors with our World Series of Birding mailing!

Our next Community Volunteer Day was on April 29 at our South Branch Preserve in Mount Olive.

Volunteers helped prepare the Community Garden for the upcoming season and explored our walking trail. Free saplings and refreshments were enjoyed by all.
The Post Farm is a 40-acre, picturesque, gently rolling hay farm with views of the Kittatinny Ridge. It lies in Frelinghuysen Township’s Martinsburg Ridge Project Area. The land has been farmed continuously since the early 1900s.

The owner of the farm, Bonnie Post, has been committed to preserving the farm, and it adjoins several other preserved tracts of land in the surrounding areas. Preservation of farmland property has been a priority for the Township.

“We are grateful to Bonnie Post for her willingness to preserve this farm, thereby adding to the significant block of preserved land in this part of Frelinghuysen Township,” said Sandy Urgo, Vice President of Land Preservation.

White Township in Warren County is a hub for agricultural activity. Located along the Delaware River, the Township supports many forms of agriculture, including field crops, livestock and woodlands.

Oxbow Acres is a 58-acre farm located in the Highlands Planning Area that has been recently preserved through the White Township Municipal Planning Incentive grant program.

A former horse farm with beautiful rolling scenery, the landowner currently grows hay.

“I am pleased that I could be a part of preserving Oxbow Acres. White Township has a rich farming tradition, and the preservation of this farm is a piece of the puzzle to ensure that it can continue viably for years to come,” said Aaron Cela, Land Preservation Specialist.

Oxbow Acres contains nearly 32 acres of prime soils that are of statewide importance. This property, along with the recently preserved Race Farm across the street, will serve as a new hub of farmland preservation in this part of White Township.

- Sunlight! Choose an appropriate size and site for your garden. The most important consideration is the amount of sunlight.

- Water! Newly planted seeds need to be watered every day. The soil will need to be kept moist to ensure that the seeds germinate. A garden that has already been established should be watered well, daily.

- Drainage! Low-lying areas tend to collect water after heavy rains. These areas can be improved by raising the planting bed. This is done by digging paths four to six inches deep to promote drainage using the soil removed to raise the bed.

- Produce! Vegetables that do well in northern New Jersey include asparagus, snap beans, cucumbers, eggplants, peas, peppers, and of course, tomatoes.

Do you have a gardening question? Email us at info@tlc-nj.org and get an answer from our staff naturalist or garden manager!
On April 24, The Land Conservancy teamed up with LightHawk, an organization with more than 200 volunteer pilots who fly to protect land, water and wildlife across America, for a very special flight. The Land Conservancy Development Committee had the opportunity to participate in an aerial tour of some of the 24,000 acres we’ve preserved over the past 35 years.

LightHawk volunteer pilot Steve Kent, flew the Cessna 182 Amphibian plane from Morristown Airport and toured the beautiful Garden State for 45 minutes while taking photographs and video from 1,000 feet.

Tour highlights included our South Branch Preserve in Mount Olive, Pequannock Watershed Preserve in West Milford, West Brook Preserve, the Pompton River Walk in Pequannock, Skytop Farm and the Hewitt-Butler trail connector in West Milford and our newest preserve, Ramapo Mountain Preserve, in Mahwah.

Video from the flight will be available to view on our blog at tlc-nj.org/blog

AWARD-WINNING MAP

Our Geographic Information System Manager, Ken Fung, came in first place at the 30th Annual NJDEP Mapping Contest.

This is the second award Ken has won for his map, showcasing our work assisting Sussex County in updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan.

“The maps created and developed by Ken showcase the high level of technical expertise and capacity of our GIS department, and the skill with which our staff incorporates local knowledge to prepare the tools used to identify priorities for preservation,” said Barbara Heskins Davis, Vice President, Programs.

IN MEMORY

We were sad to learn of the passing of former Trustee Bob Pierson. Bob served as mayor of Mendham, where he was a champion of open space preservation, volunteer firefighter and on our Land Acquisition Committee from 2004-2008.
GRAN FONDO NJ: RIDE WITH TEAM PRESERVATION!

Ride with Team Preservation in GRAN FONDO NJ on Sunday, September 10, 2017!

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 is the third year Team Preservation is riding in Gran Fondo, 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 custom-made Land Conservancy cycling jersey for the event and cover all of the registration costs for the Gran Fondo NJ. 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

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2017 GRAY CUP GOLF CLASSIC

Join us for the 9th Annual Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic to be held on Monday, September 18, 2017, at the exclusive Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville.

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 first 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 $600.00, 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
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

**Corporations:**
- BASF

**Foundations:**
- Johnson & Johnson
- Family of Consumer Companies
- Stroud Water Research Center
- William Penn Foundation

**Memorial Gifts:**
- In Memory of A. Ross Eckler
- Charlie Baumann
- Robert Harry Conway
- Susan Eckler-Kerns
- Lyla R. Meader
- In memory of Jerry Jones
- Roseanne Jones

**Honor Gifts:**
- In Honor of Albie Booth
- Barbara Heskins Davis

**Office Volunteers:**
- Judith Brown
- Susan Jancerak
- Susan Kleczynski
- Mark Rabson
- Susan Wiedaseck
- Ann Weissenburger
- Christie Whitehouse

PLANNED GIVING: LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT

Leave a lasting legacy of open land, clean water, and preserved habitat. Name The Land Conservancy of New Jersey in your will through a bequest or as a beneficiary through other planned giving and ensure we pass this legacy down to future generations.

We hope you will think of us as you review your real estate plan. By making a planned gift, you will join other visionary donors who are helping to secure the future of precious lands and water for all to enjoy.

To make sure your goals for your gift are achieved, please contact Christi Kobus Rokicki, our Director of Development, at 973-541-1010 ext. 25.

Check out our Blog for The Land Conservancy’s latest news and events!
tlc-nj.org/blog