



New Jersey
NATURAL LANDS TRUST

AGENDA

NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING

March 28, 2014

Location: Office of Natural Lands Management

501 E. State Street, 5 Station Plaza, 4th Floor

Trenton, NJ

12:00 PM

- I. Statement of Open Public Meetings Act**
- II. General Public Comment**
- III. Financial Report**
 - Third and Fourth Quarter 2013 Financial Reports, for decision
- IV. Minutes of September 27, 2013 meeting, for decision**
- V. Unfinished Business**
 - Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County, status update (no enclosure)
 - Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Subcommittee Report (no enclosure)
- VI. New Business**
 - Calendar Year 2014 Spending Authorization, for decision
 - Nominating Committee Recommendations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer Officers, for election, for decision (no enclosure)
 - Clarks Landing-Aladuan/GA Land Management Assignment Offer, Galloway Township, Atlantic County, for decision
 - Warren Grove Bogs-Osprey Landing Land Donation Offer, Stafford Township, Ocean County, for decision
 - Draft 2013 Annual Report Text, for decision
 - 2014 Meeting Dates, for discussion
- VII. Adjourn**

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST I
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

(See Accountants' Review Report)

	Fixed Asset Fund	General Fund	Hycohex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	TOTAL
ASSETS:									
<i>Current Assets</i>									
Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	249,347	7,827	205,245	87,240	30,647	15,550	797,964	\$ 1,402,714
Terminals Escrow	-	3,032	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,032
Accrued Interest Receivable	-	11,846	534	1,870	1,296	-	-	54,264	70,500
Total Current Assets	-	264,225	8,361	207,115	88,536	30,647	15,550	852,228	1,476,245
<i>Fixed Assets</i>									
Land	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
Equipment	2,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,364
Vehicles	15,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,544
Accumulated Depreciation	(17,908)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,908)
Total Fixed Assets	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
<i>Other Assets</i>									
Investments-Long Term (FIM)	-	1,845,165	131,967	431,675	1,007,561	275,573	-	7,741,126	11,282,709
Total Other Assets	-	1,845,165	131,967	431,675	1,007,561	275,573	-	7,741,126	11,282,709
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,905,481	\$ 139,658	\$ 638,791	\$ 1,106,396	\$ 306,154	\$ 15,550	\$ 8,593,884	\$ 50,838,503
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS									
<i>Liabilities</i>									
Margin Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Security Deposits Payable	-	2,782	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,782
Total Liabilities	-	2,782	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,782
<i>Net Assets</i>									
Unrestricted	-	1,303,454	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,303,454
Permanently Restricted	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
Temporarily Restricted	-	-	114,495	409,515	1,116,249	303,279	15,550	8,573,968	10,556,544
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	(93,755)	3,003	(26,824)	(10,093)	(75)	-	19,915	(30,820)
Total Net Assets	38,079,629	1,309,699	137,498	682,791	1,106,396	306,154	15,550	8,593,884	50,838,503
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,905,481	\$ 139,658	\$ 638,791	\$ 1,106,396	\$ 306,154	\$ 15,550	\$ 8,593,884	\$ 50,838,503

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Statement 2

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Trust Funds							TOTAL	
	Fixed Asset Fund	General Fund	Hyponex	Patty's Island	Patty's Island Cultural	Shorebirds	Wetlands Acquisition		Wetlands Mitigation
Revenue (Restricted)									
Contribution Income	\$ -	\$ 3,023	\$ -	\$ 207,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 176,250	\$ 388,780
Expense									
Materials and Supplies	-	445	-	-	-	-	-	-	445
Services	-	11,145	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,145
Maintenance	-	7,356	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,356
Annual Report	-	190	-	-	-	-	-	-	190
Capital	-	1,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,525
Subaccount Project Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	6,490	-	14,905	-	55,000	-	31,300	69,695
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 29,149	\$ -	\$ 14,905	\$ -	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 31,300	\$ 110,252
Other Income									
Rent Income	-	20,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,800
Interest/Dividend Income	-	32,103	1,624	9,107	15,946	7,450	2	130,346	206,585
Miscellaneous Income	-	2,768	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,768
Gain or Loss on Sale	-	19	1	18	8	-	1	55	115
Total Other Income	\$ -	\$ 55,680	\$ 1,625	\$ 9,125	\$ 15,954	\$ 7,450	\$ 3	\$ 139,414	\$ 229,271
Excess Revenues Over Expenses	\$ -	\$ 31,531	\$ 1,625	\$ 201,822	\$ 15,954	\$ (27,540)	\$ 3	\$ 284,364	\$ 347,795
Net Asset Balance Dec 31 2012	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,524,492	\$ 138,390	\$ 491,071	\$ 1,086,044	\$ 145,596	\$ 13,547	\$ 8,335,480	\$ 50,374,209
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	(10,334)	1,583	(4,102)	4,398	(11,802)	-	(25,950)	(46,207)
Adjustment for Prior Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Asset Balance Sept 30, 2013	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,965,695	\$ 139,058	\$ 958,797	\$ 1,106,396	\$ 309,154	\$ 13,547	\$ 8,589,884	\$ 51,115,201

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2013

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Fixed Asset Fund	General Fund	Hypomex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	TOTAL
ASSETS									
Current Assets									
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ -	\$ 352,481	\$ 8,516	\$ 181,772	\$ 97,658	\$ 5,633	\$ 15,550	\$ 1,563,041	\$ 2,224,657
Tenants Escrow	-	3,032	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,032
Accrued Interest Receivable	-	6,727	404	2,813	4,879	-	-	33,597	48,420
Total Current Assets	-	362,240	8,920	184,585	102,537	5,633	15,550	1,596,638	2,276,109
Fixed Assets									
Land	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
Equipment	2,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,364
Vehicles	15,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,544
Accumulated Depreciation	(17,908)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,908)
Total Fixed Assets	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
Other Assets									
Investments-Long Term (FMV)	-	1,558,720	131,170	479,762	1,006,481	275,503	-	7,083,385	10,535,021
Due From Related Fund	-	444	-	-	-	-	-	-	444
Total Other Assets	-	1,559,164	131,170	479,762	1,006,481	275,503	-	7,083,385	10,535,465
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,921,404	\$ 140,090	\$ 664,347	\$ 1,109,018	\$ 281,142	\$ 15,550	\$ 8,680,023	\$ 50,891,203
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS									
Liabilities									
Due To Related Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 444	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 444
Security Deposits Payable	-	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,792
Total Liabilities	-	2,792	-	444	-	-	-	-	3,236
Net Assets									
Unrestricted	-	1,974,367	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,974,367
Permanently Restricted	38,079,629	-	133,701	669,800	1,112,509	296,484	15,550	8,738,580	38,079,629
Temporarily Restricted	-	(55,755)	5,389	(25,897)	(3,491)	(15,342)	-	(58,557)	10,986,824
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	1,978,612	140,090	663,903	1,109,018	281,142	15,550	8,680,023	(152,653)
Total Net Assets	38,079,629	1,921,404	140,090	664,347	1,109,018	281,142	15,550	8,680,023	50,887,967
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,921,404	\$ 140,090	\$ 664,347	\$ 1,109,018	\$ 281,142	\$ 15,550	\$ 8,680,023	\$ 50,891,203

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

Statement 2

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Trust Funds							TOTAL	
	Fixed Asset Fund	General Fund	Hyponex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	Wetlands Acquisition		Wetlands Mitigation
Revenue (Restricted)									
Contribution Income	\$ -	\$ 13,480	\$ -	\$ 207,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 245,744	\$ 466,724
Expense									
Materials and Supplies	\$ -	\$ 1,012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,012
Services	-	14,873	-	444	-	-	-	-	15,117
Maintenance	-	8,341	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,341
Annual Report	-	198	-	-	-	-	-	-	198
Capital	-	1,586	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,586
Subaccount Project Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	8,480	-	40,123	-	60,002	-	31,300	139,905
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 34,280	\$ -	\$ 40,567	\$ -	\$ 60,002	\$ -	\$ 31,300	\$ 166,159
Other Income									
Rent Income	-	26,450	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,450
Interest/Dividend Income	-	47,693	2,313	10,954	16,364	10,855	2	208,507	296,688
Miscellaneous Income	-	2,768	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,768
Gain or Loss on Sale	-	19	1	18	8	-	1	68	115
Total Other Income	\$ -	\$ 76,930	\$ 2,314	\$ 10,972	\$ 16,372	\$ 10,855	\$ 3	\$ 208,575	\$ 326,021
Excess Revenues Over Expenses	\$ -	\$ 56,120	\$ 2,314	\$ 177,905	\$ 16,372	\$ (49,147)	\$ 3	\$ 423,019	\$ 626,586
Net Asset Balance Dec 31 2012	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,884,492	\$ 136,390	\$ 491,071	\$ 1,088,044	\$ 345,556	\$ 15,547	\$ 8,335,480	\$ 50,374,209
Land Acquisition	-	(22,000)	-	(5,073)	6,602	(15,267)	-	(78,475)	(112,827)
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	-	1,386	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustment for Prior Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Asset Balance Dec 31, 2013	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,918,612	\$ 140,090	\$ 683,903	\$ 1,109,018	\$ 281,142	\$ 15,550	\$ 8,660,024	\$ 50,887,968

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 27, 2013
12:00 PM
Duke Farms
1112 Dukes Parkway West
Hillsborough, NJ 08844**

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:16 PM and roll was taken. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative.

The Open Public Meetings Act notice was read as follows: Notice of the date, time, location and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was also noted that such notice was provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information in order to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Michael Catania, Chairperson
James Hall, Vice Chairperson
Emile DeVito, Trustee
Matt Spayth, Trustee representative for the
State Treasurer
Thomas Gilmore, Trustee

Larry Torok, DEP Trustee
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee, joined the
meeting by phone at 12:55 PM
Ryan Benson, DAG, Trust Counsel
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Martin Rapp, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent were:

Ed Mulvan, alternate for Rich Boornazian, representative for the DEP Commissioner
Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary- Treasurer
Steve Eisenhauer, Trustee
State House Commission representative (not appointed)

Guests:

Kelly Wenzel, New Jersey Audubon Society
Amanda Dey, DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program
Lawrence Niles, Conserve Wildlife Foundation

General Public Comment: None

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2013. Mr. Gilmore motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion and the Financial Statements were approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

The **June 14, 2013 minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania provided the Board with a report on the status of activities at **Petty's Island Preserve in Pennsauken Township, Camden County**. Mr. Catania updated the Board regarding its contract with the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) for educational programming and stewardship at the Petty's Island Preserve. The contract awarded November 1, 2011 was a one-year contract that can be renewed for four additional one-year terms. Mr. Catania noted that the Trust and NJAS have had a very successful second year, as will be explained in detail by Ms. Wenzel, and the Trust plans to renew its contract with the NJAS and its subcontractors, Delaware RiverKeeper and Cooper River Watershed Association, for another year. In a power point presentation, Ms. Wenzel provided details regarding NJAS's educational and stewardship activities at Petty's Island over the past year along with their community relations efforts, especially with public and charter schools in Camden County. Through this contract, hundreds of people have obtained access to Petty's Island.

Mr. Catania provided the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Subcommittee Report**. He shared the Board's concern that the Trust's shorebird account may be depleted in two to three years, and indicated that the Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird subcommittee will continue to explore ways to replenish the account. The Delaware Bay beaches are important to migratory shorebirds from a hemispherical perspective making it critical that we continue to monitor the shorebird and horseshoe crab populations and take measures to maintain and restore critical habitat. An example of this important work occurred when five bayshore beaches impacted by Hurricane Sandy were restored in time for the horseshoe crab spawning season in May. The State and Trust worked with a number of groups such as American Littoral Society, NJ Recovery Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Corporate Wetlands Partnership to make the restoration happen. Ms. Dey congratulated the Trust on its role in the restoration and on its continued support of Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird research.

New Business:

Ms. Dey presented the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project 2014 Budget Request** for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation (CWF) and for the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP). Mr. Gilmore recused himself from this matter because of his position with NJAS, which is a CWF subcontractor on this project. Ms. Dey advised the Board that the annual amount the Trust provides to CWF and ENSP is critical because it helps develop the scientific support for regulatory actions such as horseshoe crab harvesting restrictions and red knot listing. In fact, Ms. Dey announced that just today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list the red knot as a threatened species. Ms. Dey indicated that the peak count of the stopover population of red knots on Delaware Bay during 2013 was 25,596, roughly the same as last year. Mean horseshoe crab egg density in 2013 was low but stable. Counts in January 2013 of red knots on their main wintering area in Tierra del Feugo decreased to 10,105 (from 14,770 in 2012). As mentioned at prior Trust meetings, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will implement the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Model to set harvest quotas for horseshoe crabs. The model relies on data from Delaware Bay and will base harvest quotas on biological measures, not historic or political quotas.

The proposed 2014 shorebird budget is \$102,800; \$4,000 more than budgeted in 2013. In 2013, only \$59,701 was actually expended. The large discrepancy between what was budgeted and

actually spent was the result of uncertainty as to what, if any, federal funds would be available for Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project activities. This will be true again this year. It is hoped that federal funding will become available and the full amount being requested from the Trust will not be needed.

Mr. Catania noted that, as with prior budgets, the 2014 shorebird budget should be approved with a rider authorizing a reallocation of expenses between categories subject to a limitation of the total budgeted amount. He also noted the need for authorization of a \$35,000 upfront payment to CWF in order to fund Delaware shorebird work to be done in May and June 2014 with receipts for such work to be provided at a later time. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the 2014 budget with the reallocation rider and upfront \$35,000 payment. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and the 2014 shorebird budget was approved by a vote of 6 to 0 with Mr. Gilmore abstaining.

The Board considered the **Bear Creek Project Area in Allamuchy and Frelinghuysen Townships, Warren County**. Mr. Gilmore motioned to approve the Bear Creek Project Area on the condition that lands within the Project Area that would present management concerns, such as structures, improvements or contamination or that would require the expenditure of Trust funds, be brought to the Board for specific approval before acquisition. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the offer was accepted by a vote of 6 to 0 with Ms. Yeany abstaining.

The Board considered the **Revision of Management Guidelines/Appendix 1 to authorize Hagedorn Preserve for hunting**. The Board considered whether the Hagedorn Preserve should be opened to the general public for bow hunting. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the Revision of Management Guidelines/Appendix 1. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion and the Revision to the Management Guidelines/Appendix 1 was unanimously approved by a vote of 7 to 0.

Mr. Cartica explained that the **Revised Spending Authorization for Calendar Year 2013** is necessary in order for the Trust to acquire a new vehicle for the Trust's Land Manager, Martin Rapp. Mr. Rapp has recently experienced numerous mechanical problems with his current vehicle, which has over 125,000 miles. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the Revised Spending Authorization for Calendar Year 2013 to authorize the purchase of a new Trust vehicle. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion and the Revised Spending Authorization was unanimously approved by a vote of 7 to 0.

The remaining **2013 meeting date is** December 6, 2013.

Mr. Gilmore motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. DeVito seconded the motion and, by a vote of 7 to 0, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Lettman
Secretary/Treasurer



**NATURAL LANDS TRUST
SPENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 2014**

EXPENDITURES

	<u>2013 Authorization</u>	<u>2013 Expenditure</u>	<u>2014 Authorization</u>
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	\$2,000	\$1,012	\$2,000

General Printing, Office Supplies and Mail Services - \$2,000

Includes routine office supplies, photocopying, reference materials and publications, maps and reproduction of maps, creating signage, and similar expenses. Production and printing of the Annual Report is not included under this category. If needed, this item will fund additional functions for outreach and volunteers for management and acquisition.

SERVICES	\$36,700	\$14,673	\$36,700
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Travel - \$700

Includes funds for refreshments for Board meetings and parking vouchers and staff reimbursement for occasional use of personal vehicles.

Information Processing - \$1,000

Includes computer repairs and purchase of software.

DAG Expenses – \$20,000

Includes charges assessed to the Trust for professional services provided by staff of the Attorney General's office.

Other Professional Services - \$15,000

Includes cost of title searches and filing fees for land donations and legal advertisement of meeting dates, membership fees and bank service charges. Also includes routine professional service contracts for surveys and preparation of deeds. Minimal back taxes are included as part of this line; however, substantial tax payments will be included in each offering brought to the Board. Professional Services also includes any costs associated with creation and maintenance of the Trust's website and for Trust professional accounting services.

	<u>2013 Authorization</u>	<u>2013 Expenditure</u>	<u>2014 Authorization</u>
MAINTENANCE AND FIXED CHARGES	\$70,000	\$8,341	\$73,000

General Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, Equipment and Vehicle - \$23,000

Includes funds for maintenance of rental units (including furnace or roof replacement, road regrading, power restoration, and other emergency measures), gates and access, safety/stabilization needs, tree trimming and removal, encroachment surveys, etc., as needed. Major planned maintenance and capital improvement projects are not included within this authorization and would be submitted individually, together with a recommended funding source, to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Conservation/Preserve Management Projects - \$50,000

The following preserve management projects related to the Trust's mission of preservation of biodiversity are included in the budgeted amount planned for this calendar year. The costs for each project are gross estimates and quotes have not yet been sought.

Preserve inventories and/or management plan development: \$30,000

Invasive plant control and preserve management (various preserves) including wages for hourly employees: \$20,000

ANNUAL REPORT	\$250	\$198	\$250
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2013 Annual Report - \$250

The requested authorization includes the cost of graphic layout and development of the annual report for posting on the Trust's website.

CAPITAL	\$35,000	\$1,586	\$35,000
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Miscellaneous Equipment Purchase and Replacement - \$35,000

This budget allows for purchase of a new truck to replace the Trust's Dodge Dakota and for miscellaneous small equipment purchases used for land management and office function.

TOTAL SPENDING AUTHORIZATION	\$143,950	\$25,810	\$146,950
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**The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
LAND OFFERING FORM**

Site Name: Clarks Landing-Aladuan/GA
ID#: 140-17

Donor(s): Green Acres
Address: PO Box 412
City, State, Zip: Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 609-984-0500
Agent/Contact: Curt Gellerman

Municipality: Galloway Township
County: Atlantic
Quad Name:
Frontage: None
Block: 280
Lot: 1
Acreage/dimensions: Approximately 12 acres
Zoning:
Assessed value: \$23,400
Annual taxes:

Improvements: None
Offer restrictions: None
Offer contingencies: None
ROWs or easements: None
Type of Acquisition: Agreement

Property taxes paid through end of year transfer: Yes
Property taxes paid by: Green Acres

Farmland assessed: No

Estimated annual management costs:
Land management fund donation: N/A

Owner will prepare deed: Green Acres will prepare deed
Intended date of closing:
Owner will provide property survey & monuments: Green Acres will provide survey

Description of Offering

This 12-acre Green Acres Land Management Assignment offer is located in Galloway Township, Atlantic County. The property is in close proximity to the Trust's Clarks Landing Preserve but outside of the Clarks Landing Project Area. There is no direct road frontage to the offer, but other Trust-managed lands nearby provide access. The closest road access to this property is Clarks Landing Road.

Ecological Description

Like the Clarks Landing Preserve, this offer is representative habitat of the outer coastal plain physiographic province and includes oak uplands, forested wetlands of Atlantic white cedar and mixed pitch pine lowland. The forested wetlands are ranked 3 under the Landscape Project because they provide suitable habitat for the state threatened animal species such as Pine Barrens treefrog and barred owl.

Management Issues and Concerns

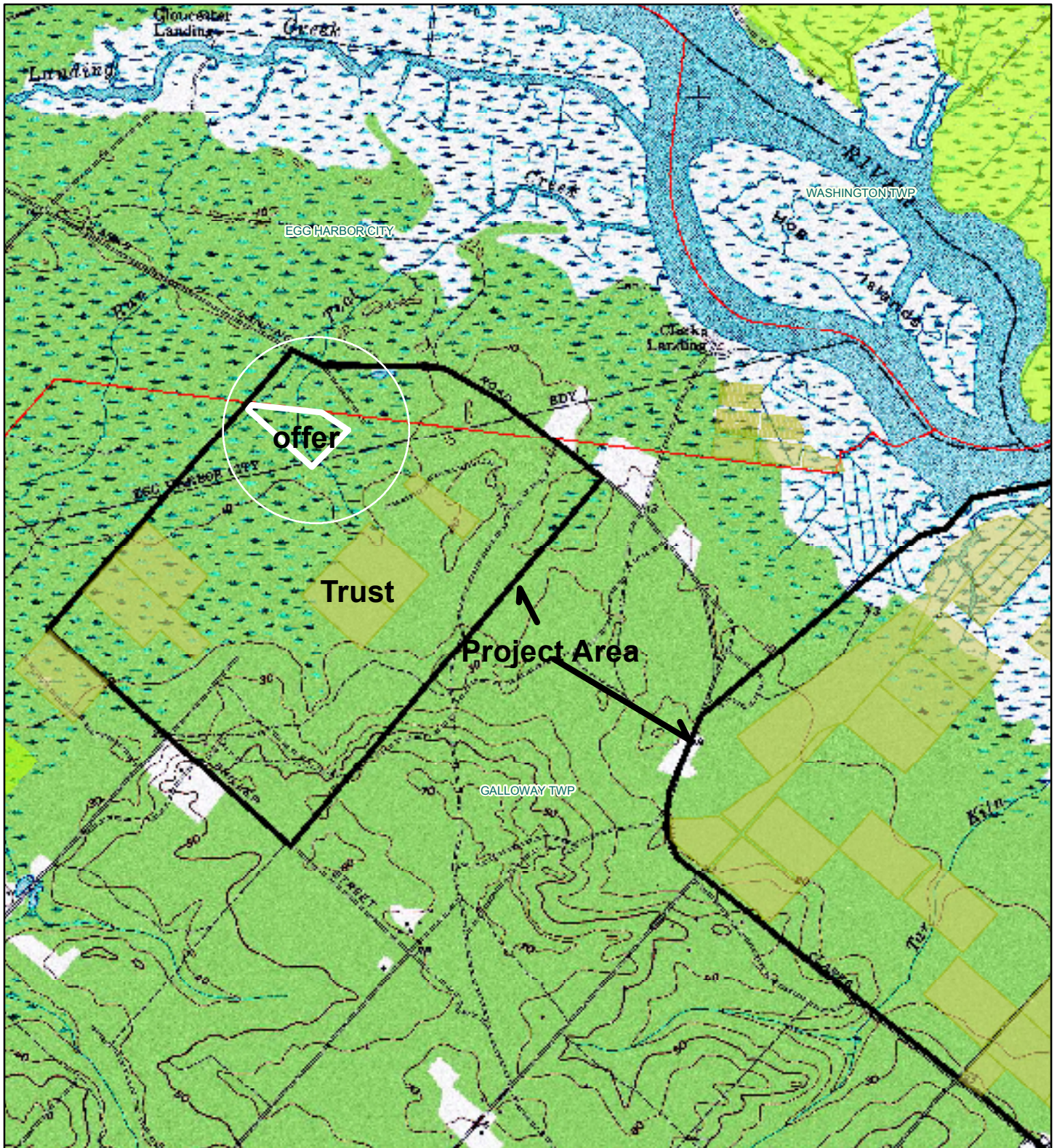
The Trust did not inspect this property but is familiar with the area because of its proximity to an existing Trust preserve. Since Green Acres will acquire the property, it will be evaluated and inspected by them for contamination and other potential hazards. Based on its proximity to the existing Clarks Landing Preserve, staff does not expect management of this additional property to pose any management concerns.

Acquisition Criteria

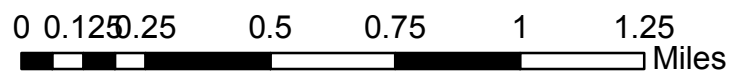
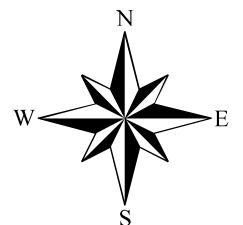
The property meets the Board's acquisition criteria for Endangered Species Habitat since it includes suitable habitat for state or federally listed plant or animal species. As a Green Acres Land Management Assignment, there is no offer of a land management donation.

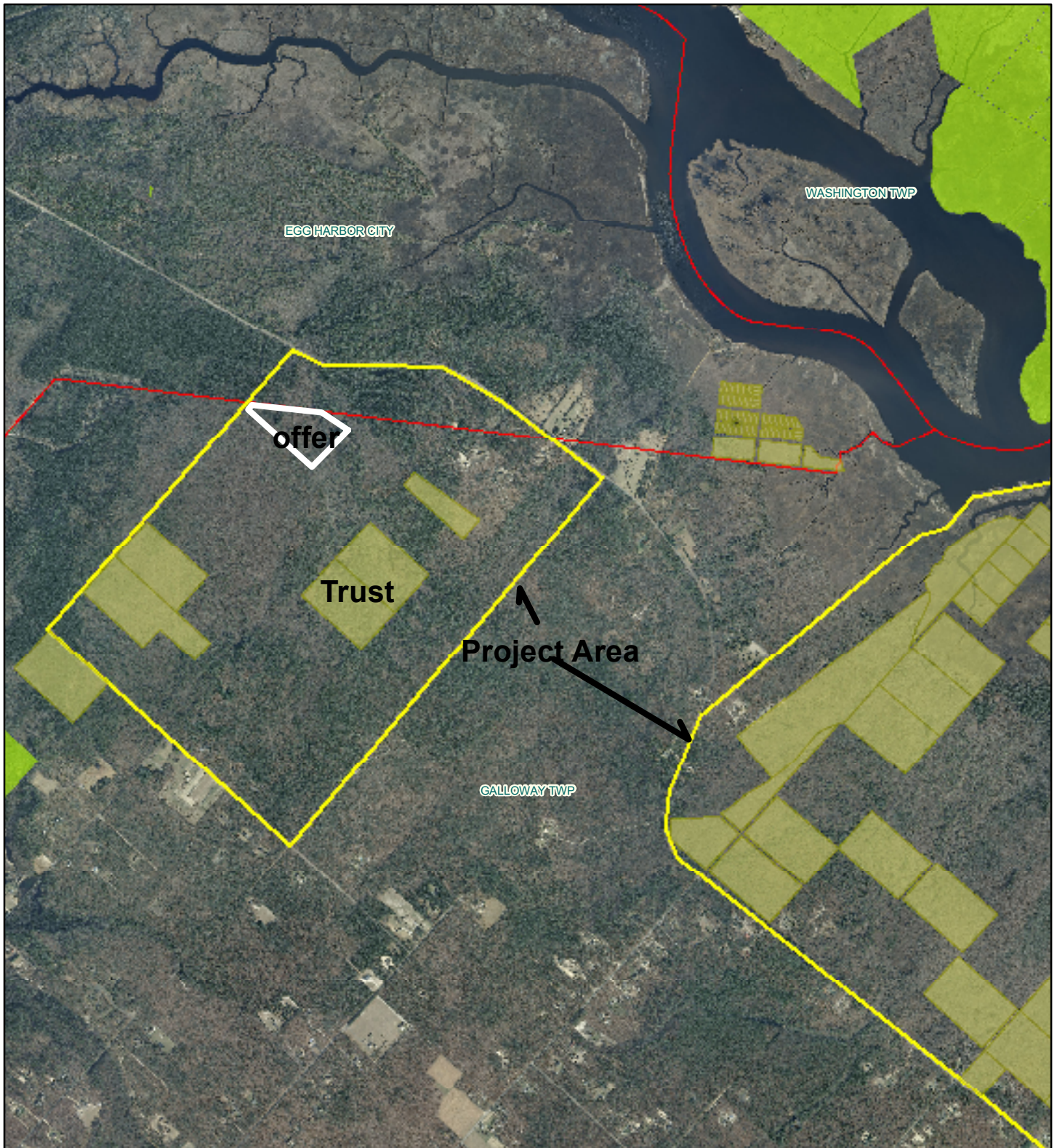
Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the approval of this Green Acres Land Management Assignment as an addition to the Trust's Clarks Landing Preserve as well as an extension of the Clarks Landing Project Area to include area within Egg Harbor City and Galloway Township bounded by Shiller, Berlin, Clarks Landing and Vienna roads and as depicted on the attached maps.

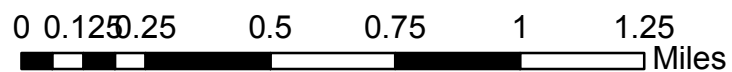
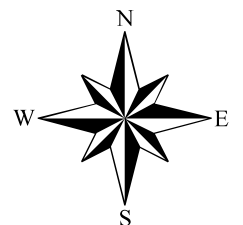


New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Clarks Landing-Aladuan/GA
Galloway Township, Atlantic County
12-Acres





New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Clarks Landing-Aladuan/GA
Galloway Township, Atlantic County
12-Acres





**The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
LAND OFFERING FORM**

Site Name: Warren Grove Bogs-Osprey Landing
ID#: 938-02

Donor(s): Overlap LLC
Address: 112 Haddontowne Court #101
City, State, Zip: Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-3662
Phone: (732) 530-7500
Agent/Contact: Michael Gross, Esq.

Municipality: Stafford Township
County: Ocean
Frontage: Route 539 and Sims Place Road
Block: 1
Lot: 13

Acreage/dimensions: 5.897 acres
Zoning:
Assessed value: \$22,400
Annual taxes:

Improvements: None
Offer restrictions: None
Offer contingencies: None
ROWs or easements: None

Type of Acquisition: Fee

Property taxes paid through end of year transfer: Yes
Property taxes paid by: Owner

Farmland assessed: No

Estimated annual management costs:
Land management fund donation: No

Owner will prepare deed: Yes
Owner will provide property survey & monuments: Yes

Description of Offering

This 5.9-acre Land Donation Offer is located in Stafford Township, Ocean County. It is immediately adjacent to the Trust's 264-acre Warren Grove Bogs Preserve. The property is located at the intersection of Route 539 and Sims Place Road with frontage along both roads. An inholding within the property is owned by the Laurel Sportsmen Club. On the other side of the northern property line, there is the Warren Grove Fire Department and a private residence.

Ecological Description

Most of the property is freshwater wetlands, approximately 50 percent of which is Atlantic white cedar with the remaining 50 percent being scrub shrub habitat. The property is mapped Landscape 4 because it includes habitat for the state endangered timber rattlesnake, arogos skipper and bobcat and state threatened Pine Barrens treefrog and red-headed woodpecker.

Management Issues and Concerns

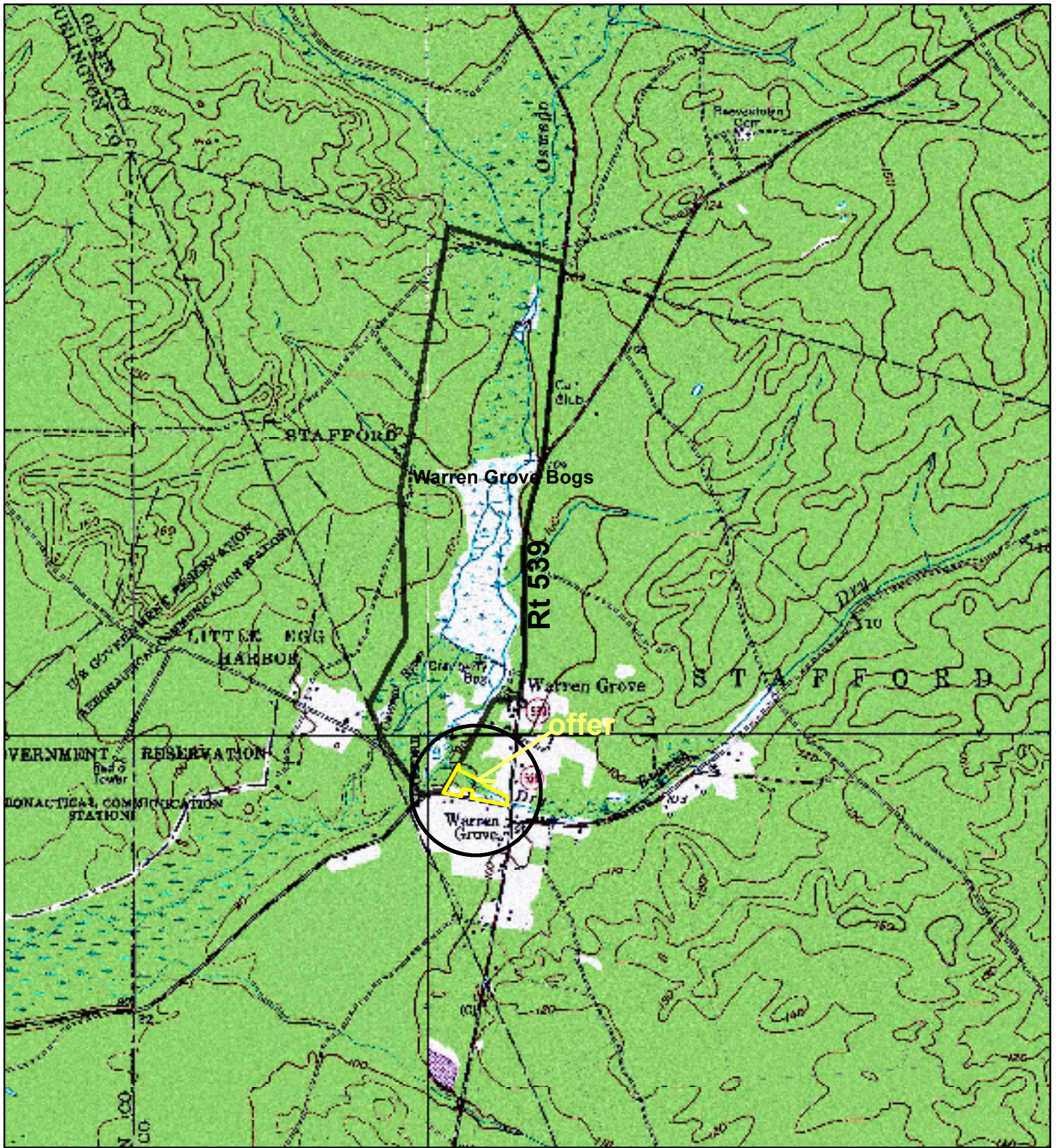
Staff inspected the property on January 28, 2014 and reviewed the Phase I report provided by the property owner. Based on the review and inspections, staff located the site of what may have been an old sawmill. In addition, staff found two 1½ inch galvanized pipes that raised some concerns. In response, the property owner responded that these pipes are "well points" that appear to extend to approximately 25 feet in depth to access groundwater but that no uses or connections were identified, suggesting no further action is required. Staff consulted with Green Acres staff and was advised that these "well points" are considered wells and should be decommissioned, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:9D. Such decommissioning should be done by a licensed well driller who would determine the best sealing material, disinfect the well, remove the well casing (if practical) and the fill the well with the sealing material. The well driller must have the well record so he can properly decommission the well. If information regarding the construction of the "well points" is not available, certain procedures must be followed by the well driller in order to ensure proper decommissioning.

Acquisition Criteria

These properties meet the Board's acquisition criteria for Endangered Species Habitat since they include habitat for a state or federally listed plant or animal species or suitable buffers to protect such species. This property was offered to the Trust through the DEP's Division of Land Use Regulation and no land management donation was included in the offer.

Staff Recommendations

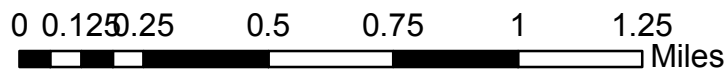
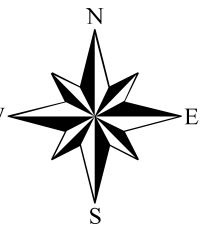
Subject to the "well points" being properly decommissioned, staff recommends acceptance of this Land Donation Offer as an addition to the Trust's Warren Grove Bogs Preserve.

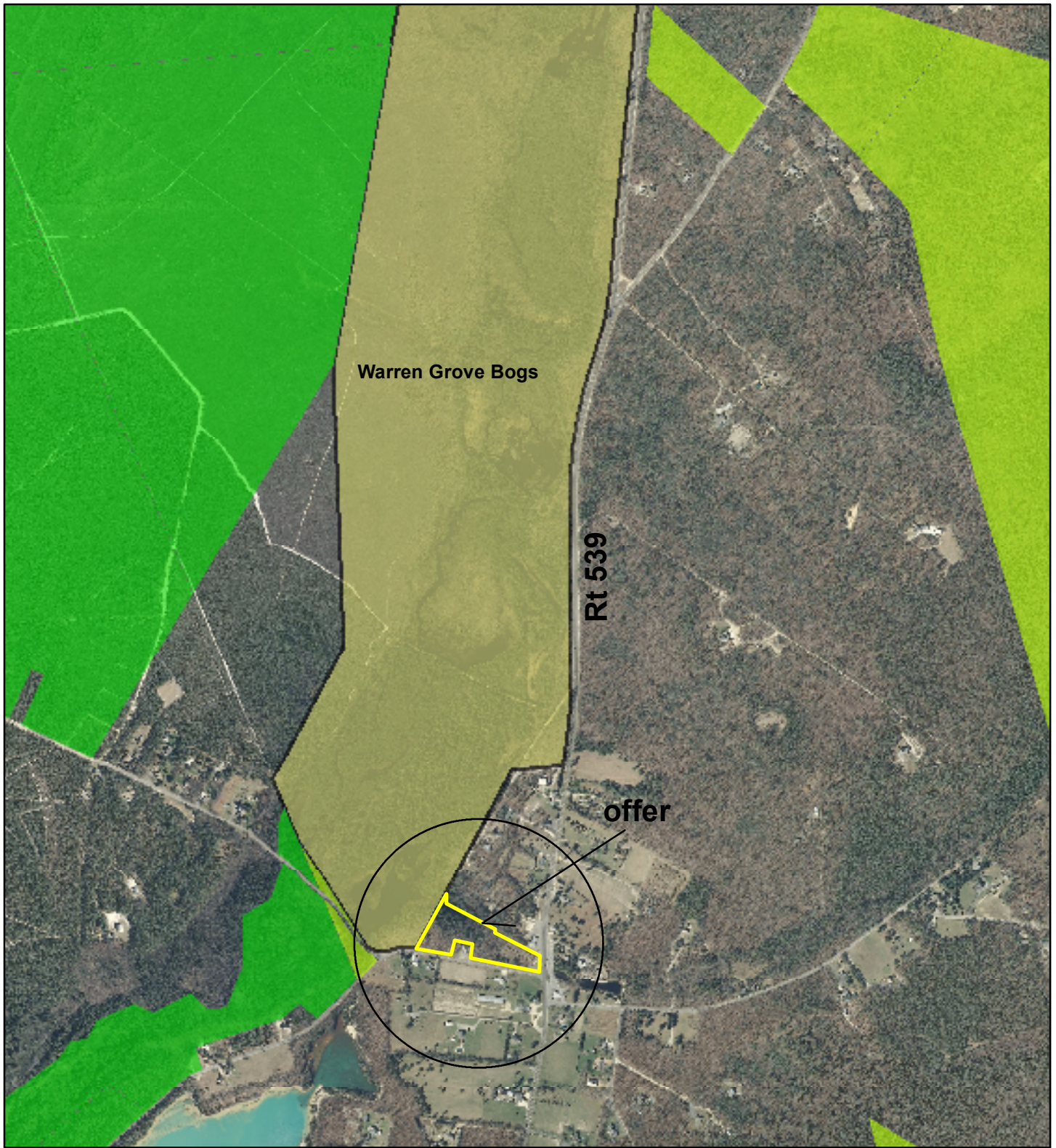


New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Warren Grove Bogs- Osprey Landing

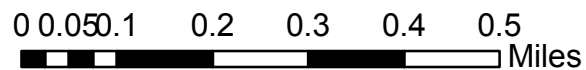
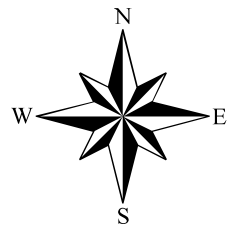
Stafford Township, Ocean County

5.9 -Acres





New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Warren Grove Bogs- Osprey Landing
Stafford Township, Ocean County
5.9 -Acres





New Jersey Natural Lands Trust 2013 Annual Report

Statement of Purpose

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was created by the Legislature in 1968 as an independent agency with the mission to preserve land in its natural state for enjoyment by the public and to protect natural diversity through the acquisition of open space. The Trust preserves land primarily by donations of open space through acquisition of title in fee simple or of conservation easements, and manages its properties to conserve endangered species habitat, rare natural features, and significant ecosystems. The Trust invites passive use by the public for recreational or educational purposes wherever such use will not adversely affect ecological communities and biological diversity.

The Trust also recognizes that ownership and management alone are not enough to achieve its mission. Public education is an integral function of protecting natural diversity. The Trust distributes information designed to convey a conservation ethic for the protection of open space and its natural values.

New Jersey Natural Lands Trust contact information:

New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
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P.O. Box 420
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Fax (609) 984-1427
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www.njnlt.org

Cover:

Cover Photo Credit:
Cover Design Credit:

Index of Preserves Referenced Within the 2013 Annual Report

Atlantic County

Bearshead Preserve ~
Clarks Landing Preserve ~
Mankiller Preserve ~

Burlington County

Retreat Preserve ~

Camden County

Four Mile Branch Preserve ~
Long-A-Coming Preserve ~
Petty's Island Preserve ~

Cumberland County

Richard J. Buhlman Preserve ~

Essex County

Great Piece Meadows Preserve ~

Hunterdon County

Gravel Hill Preserve ~
Sweet Hollow Preserve ~

Morris County

Budd Lake Bog Preserve ~

Sussex County

Reinhardt Preserve ~

In 2013 ... the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust brought approximately 423 new acres under Trust stewardship, making the Trust responsible for approximately 28,000 acres managed as a system of more than 120 preserves throughout the state.

The acquisitions represented additions to the **Bearshead, Budd Lake Bog, Clarks Landing, Four Mile Branch, Gravel Hill, Great Piece Meadows, Long-A-Coming, Mankiller, Petty's Island, Retreat, Richard J. Buhlman, Reinhardt and Sweet Hollow** preserves.

Gravel Hill Keeps Growing

The Trust's Gravel Hill Preserve in Holland Township, Hunterdon County, is so named for the composite rocks forming an elevated area in the south central area of the township, known as Gravel Hill.

New Jersey is divided into four regions, known as physiographic provinces, areas with similar sequences of rock types, geologic structures and a common geologic history: Ridge and Valley, Highlands, Piedmont and Coastal Plain provinces. Two of these provinces meet in Holland

Township where the Highlands Province is separated from the Piedmont Province by a series of major faults which cross Holland Township and reach the Delaware River near Church Road. Near the faults, fast flowing streams surged down the steep mountains, depositing sediments including quartzite and limestone on the valley floor. Deposits dominated by quartzite, which is more resistant to erosion, aggregated at the middle of Holland Township forming Gravel Hill.

Within this unique geologic area, the Trust recently preserved 82 acres, known as the Silva Farm, as an addition to the Trust's Gravel Hill Preserve which now totals approximately 325 Acres. This latest 82-acre addition was our biggest acquisition in this area yet. There are at least 50 separate tax parcels within the Gravel Hill Project Area, with some parcels of less than an acre. When Pam Their of the Green Acres Program first approached the Trust a decade ago with a small preservation opportunity of 10 acres, preserve manager Martin Rapp was not really that interested and said, "What would the Trust do with a land-locked 10-acre property?" Pam assured Martin that she could persuade a number of landowners in this interesting area to preserve their properties making it worth the Trust's while and creating a unique preserve. True to her word, Pam managed to convince a number of property owners within Gravel Hill to preserve their property resulting in a consolidated preservation area with public access.

The open farmland of the Silva Farm offers restoration opportunities to benefit grassland birds such as bobolink, American kestrel, eastern meadowlark, eastern bluebird, grasshopper sparrow, vesper sparrow and Savannah sparrow. In addition, the Silva Farm provides an important buffer around areas of the preserve where habitat for a rare plant known as wild comfrey is found. It is possible that long-tailed salamander may inhabit the preserve as well.

The Gravel Hill Preserve includes a maze of logging roads which can be used for hiking, and the new addition of the Silva Farm includes rolling hills extending out to the Delaware River bluffs offering beautiful views of the river. The best access to this preserve is located along Spring Garden Road.

Another Round of Federal Funding for Bog Turtle Habitat

In 2013 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the Trust had successfully applied for two federal grants totaling \$440,000 for the purchase of 164 acres in Lafayette and Wantage townships in Sussex County to preserve and protect habitat for the federally threatened and state endangered bog turtle.

The awards from the Service are provided under the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized by Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act). This fund provides grants through three different programs: the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants Program; the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program; and the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program. The Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program provides funds to states and territories to acquire habitat for federally endangered and threatened species with approved recovery plans, which includes bog turtle among other species.

Through the Trust, New Jersey was one of just 14 states to receive a Recovery Land Acquisition Grant in 2013. With the 2013 award, New Jersey's recent awards total more than 1.2 million dollars. And this marks the third time in recent years that Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

have been awarded to New Jersey, making it one of the more successful applicants for this competitive federal funding. The federal money will provide about 40 percent of the estimated \$950,000 cost of the land acquisition, with the state's Green Acres Program funding the balance.

The grants will fund two separate acquisition projects each of which will connect habitat by creating corridors for existing turtle populations. These acquisitions also will protect habitat for other plant and animal species in the region including the globally rare and state endangered spreading globe flower. In addition, they will connect to approximately 350 acres of already permanently preserved property in the area. This landscape-level of protection for upland forest and grassland habitats helps to conserve the hydrology and water quality of the wetlands.

Once the properties are preserved, the Trust will work with the Service to undertake management activities, including the removal of woody vegetation to establish a more open canopy, ensuring that a proper wetlands area exists for the bog turtle population similar to the work done by the Trust at Armstrong Bog, as described below.

Many Hands Make Light Work

As the old saying goes, many hands can make light work--as it did recently when several biologists and volunteers improved habitat for the state endangered bog turtle. The Trust entered into a management agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge, in 2012 to provide onsite management of the Armstrong Bog. The Service provides biological expertise and routine enforcement help in managing this prime bog turtle site. Refuge Biologist Colin Osborn has applied his skills and knowledge directly to the management of bog turtles and improving their habitat. An aggressive effort has been made to clear the site of woody vegetation and brush. Over the years this location, like so many other turtle locations, has changed from open wet meadow, which is perfect for turtles, into a much less suitable dense shrubby habitat. Each year the Refuge invites the Trust staff to work along with their staff in a multi-year effort to restore the open condition of the site. It's a great opportunity to learn from Refuge biologists and it keeps the Trust familiar with the bog. When the Trust can lend the Refuge a hand, it makes the work day a little easier and quickens the turn-around to better habitat for turtles. This work restores an entire fen ecological community important not only to turtles but to dragonflies, rare plants and many other species that depend on emergent wetland habitats.

Throughout the year the Wallkill Refuge staff keeps a close eye on the property, scheduling enforcement patrols and routine biological monitoring visits. This partnership has shown itself to work well by acquiring, managing and protecting habitat for bog turtle. The Trust will make room on the calendar for more work next year.

Stepping Out From the Shadows

Lifting a veil of shade and shadow revealed an important habitat nearly lost from sunlight. Bringing sunlight back to a habitat that only exists under the warm sunlight of an open sky is the job at hand. This is the basis of some practical habitat management work begun in 2013 at the Bear Creek Preserve. Acting on information and data collected in the Bear Creek Biodiversity

Inventory completed in 2010, Trust staff took an initial step to revitalize two limestone fens, wet meadows which were rapidly converting from open and sunny to dark and shady. These fens are known to be critical habitats for the federal and state endangered bog turtle. But in the decades since small dairy farms vanished, when cows pastured in these wet meadows, trees have now taken hold and begun to grow into forest. Broad leaves of red maple trees have begun to shade out the characteristic grasses and sedges important to bog turtle habitat. Removing woody vegetation is required to keep the sites open and sunny, the way turtles like it.

In its job plan, staff selected two one-acre sites in which to begin work. A map was developed to determine current conditions in the two selected fens. Open areas still suitable for bog turtles would be avoided. The more shaded areas which would benefit from added sunlight were targeted. This conceptual plan was coordinated and reviewed by turtle expert, Brian Zarate, Senior Zoologist with New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program.

To ensure that the project would be carried out according to plan, the Trust hired Jason Tesauro, a bog turtle consultant and biologist. Trust preserve manager Martin Rapp had worked with Mr. Tesauro to improve bog turtle habitat at another Trust preserve; most notably, the goat grazing project at Wallkill Preserve. Jason knows the life history and habitats of bog turtles, where they nest, bask in the sun and hibernate, so his skills were considered essential, according to Mr. Rapp. Jason was already familiar with these Bear Creek sites from previous field work.

Two days of on-the-ground habitat work would be required, one day at each of two sites. Work began in mid-March 2013, while turtles were still in hibernation. Mr. Tesauro made his assessment of the habitat conditions and quickly delineated the work zone boundaries with flagging tape. Work seemed easy at first, removing small saplings with hand saws and loppers. But we soon realized that we would need to step up to using the chainsaws we lugged into the woods. With saws running, woody vegetation was quickly reduced to small slash. Larger trees were girdled and left standing. Corridors linking existing quality habitat were thinned of small trees and woody vegetation to create pathways for turtle movement. Working in the muck was not easy and it was important to stress safety at all times.

At the end of the two work days the habitat improvements we implemented were evident. It was hoped that bog turtles might begin to explore into this new, reclaimed habitat in a few months. Sunlight would help renew the herbaceous vegetation of tussock sedge and sweet fern and a fen would emerge from the shade.

An inspection of the site the following winter showed evidence that our work indeed resulted in an improvement. Cut stumps, the clues of our work, were now hard to find under new herbaceous cover. Slash brush that remained after brush cutting had already begun to rot. Woodpeckers and other birds zeroed in on dead girdled trees as they combed the loose bark for insects. However, some of the girdled red maples we left standing still showed some fortitude. Those that had not readily succumbed to the girdling will require some assistance from herbicides or further chainsaw work to remove them completely. The Trust plans to return again next year to continue with its work of lifting the veil of shade.

Petty's Island Update

The Trust had another exciting year at the Petty's Island Preserve. First, it got bigger! The Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) generously donated a conservation easement to the Trust over its 24-acre parcel on the mainland directly across from Petty's Island. The CCMUA will continue to oversee the daily management of the property, and a group of volunteers has offered to help with some of the challenging issues of dumping and off-road vehicle use on the property. In time, when the property is fully remediated, it is hoped that full ownership of the property will be transferred to the Trust. In the meantime, the easement ensures that the property will never be developed other than for recreational or environmental education purposes.

This year marked the Trust's second full year under contract with NJ Audubon Society (NJAS), along with its subcontractors Delaware RiverKeeper Network and Cooper River Watershed Association, to help the Trust to gain stakeholder input at Petty's Island and to implement educational programming. In January 2013, NJAS brought together a great turnout of stakeholders ready to share their thoughts with the Trust about the interpretation of the island's extensive cultural and natural resources. Stakeholders broke into small groups to mark up draft text for planned interpretive displays or suggest new information. Based on the stakeholder input, and using funding provided by the William Penn Foundation and the federal Recreational Trails Grant Program, the Trust issued an RFP for the design and fabrication of 13 wayside exhibits covering the following Petty's Island topics:

- Wetlands
- Grasslands Restoration
- Forests
- Mudflats
- Delaware River Islands
- Cooper River Watershed
- History of Land Ownership
- Legends and Lore
- Coastal Defenses During World War I
- History of Industry and Commerce
- Slavery and Slave Trade in the Philadelphia and Camden Region
- View of Philadelphia Skyline
- Partnership between the Trust and CITGO Petroleum

The wayside exhibits will be installed along the existing trail and some additional locations to introduce visitors to the island's fascinating and storied history and vast natural resources. In the near future, the Trust hopes to supplement the wayside exhibits with cell phone applications, providing additional information such as pictures, recorded messages and video.

NJAS, under its contract with the Trust, provided a number of interesting programs to the general public and school groups at Petty's Island in 2013 and even more are expected in 2014. In addition to regularly scheduled birding field trips, NJAS is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to organize special events such as Endangered Species Day hikes. Stewardship

activities, including bi-annual clean-ups, will continue to take place in the spring and fall. In 2013 volunteers removed over 90 cubic yards of trash and debris from the eastern shore of the island! In addition to its programming activities, NJAS has also started to conduct migratory and breeding bird studies on the island. For information about upcoming programs, please check the NJAS program page <http://www.njaudubon.org/Go/Petty>.

Looking forward to the future Cultural and Environmental Education Center, the Trust used grant funding provided by the William Penn Foundation to retain a consultant to review potential feasible locations on the island and make recommendations and provide conceptual drawings for the center. The Trust's consultant, Lammey and Giorgio, evaluated four different locations: a mainland location; a location at the fork in two roads a little beyond where the Petty's Island bridge reaches the island; the existing CITGO office building; and an existing warehouse. Of these four locations, the consultant recommended the location of the existing warehouse because it offers incredible views of the Delaware River and Philadelphia skyline and would not affect any wetlands. Lammey and Giorgio's entire report can be found on the Petty's Island Preserve page of the Trust's website with the caveat that the conceptual drawings are just that, conceptual. The Trust is still some years away from actually building the center and cannot begin to design it until we are much closer to construction, as many things, such as building codes and cost of materials, are likely to change.

With 2013's exciting developments, the Petty's Island Preserve is moving closer towards its goal of providing the public with numerous diverse opportunities to experience the many cultural, historic and natural resources that Petty's Island has to offer.

Andy's "Abandoned Farm" Added to the Reinhardt Preserve

Back in 1938, Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen known to her friends as "Andy" purchased this land, and what remained at the time of a barn, a lean-to and an outhouse, for \$8 an acre. As it did for Peg Miller, who eventually inherited this mountain retreat, the "Abandoned Farm" would form a lasting and joyous impression for all who came to visit. Peg Miller remembers visiting the farm for the first time as a six year old with her mom, Marion Jean Beman Chute, a Mount Holyoke College friend of Andy's. Peg remembers discovering snakes and salamanders while on nature walks with her mom. Recognizing the Chute family's love of the "Abandoned Farm" and nature, Andy left the farm to her college friend when she passed away. Later it would be Peg, with her family, sharing time outdoors or cooking breakfast on the woodstove; experiences that were so dear to Andy.

"Peg's neighbor, Goyn Reinhardt, first introduced me to Peg during an inspection of the Trust's Reinhardt Preserve in early 1991," said Trust preserve manager Martin Rapp. The 240-acre Reinhardt Preserve, donated by Goyn in 1973, was the very first property preserved by the Trust. In his travels, Goyn would keep a watchful eye on all the local cabins, including Peg Miller's "Abandoned Farm."

On visits with his neighbors, Goyn often discussed how the Trust had preserved his adjacent farm. Peg certainly shared the common love of the land, a bond carried across generations. In 1991, talks of preservation lead to Peg's donation of a conservation easement on the 33-acre "Abandoned Farm." In later years, with demands of life and kids grown, it was hard to find time

to visit the farm. So “consistent with my long-held belief that I held the property only in trust and intended that it never be subject to development ... to see the land preserved forever ... I felt free to make the property available to the Green Acres Program,” said Peg Miller. She added that it being, “bound by [High Point] state park on one side and by Reinhardt [Preserve]... on the second side simply reinforced my decision.”

Although the cabins are gone from Peg’s portion of the mountain now preserved as an addition to the Reinhardt Preserve, there remains the stone chimney, “a yellow rose that says folks lived here once,” which the Trust hopes inspires the same spirit of nature and simpler times in today’s visitors as it did when Peg’s mother Marion Jean Beman Chute wrote the poem “Abandoned Farm” long, long ago.

Abandoned Farm

Deer we don't often see around the house;
Only their eyes sometimes gleam in the headlights
If we drive in at night. But plant a garden,
It's they who profit from it, they and woodchucks.
Oh, they're around, and have no cause to fear,
Except that one week every Fall. Before,
I'm sure they graced the larder year around.
Red Brook had trout, too, years when it ran fuller;
More fields were cleared, now mostly grown to brush,
Or - the big meadow - drowned out by the beavers;
And as for fruit, why, everywhere they had
The grafted trees, the apples and the pears,
Besides the wild blueberries draped with vines
Whose fruit's as blue but bigger. And not all
For eating, either - see, here's their old still,
And there's the cellar hole, with guardian lilac,
Where their house stood. The tale of how it burned?
Well, 'twasn't often those folks went to town,
But seems once when they did - That's all but Grandpa,
Who said he would as lief just sit there rocking
In the front yard, and have a jug beside him -
Whether the still's best product or hard cider
History does not relate - the rest came back
To find old Grandpa sitting in his rocker
With his jug empty, but the house was gone.
That was before our day; the former barn
Became the house we knew, not too much altered.
They sold in a few years, for seven an acre,
Buildings thrown in. Of course, 'twas the Depression,
And the cash crop was done - all the oaks cut
The Erie used to buy for railroad ties.

If you should walk the overgrown old roads
All 'round the mountain, every now and then
You'd come upon a lilac, snowball bush
Or Yellow rose that says folks lived there once,
And find the cellar holes, perhaps a dozen,
Each with a story that we'll never know.

The woods are grown again; the chestnuts, even,
Dead more than fifty years of blight, now live
Again in saplings reaching twenty feet.
And think of all we've cut, hauled, sawed and split
To feed old Kitchen Charm, the little Franklin
And two big fireplaces. Why, in the winter,
If the thermometer hit zero or below,
Work the whole weekend, six or eight of us,
At gathering wood, we hardly could make up
For what we burned. We always took great care
With fires and lamps. There'd be no help in time
From firemen down the mountain, miles away,
If ever flames got loose and out of hand.

We don't get much protection for our taxes
Remote from town as this, even though the acres
Once sold at seven are taxed at fifteen hundred.
(Can't blame the township, with so many miles
Of mountain roads to keep, and valley land
Long under threat from those gigantic beavers,
The Engineers, who'd dam the Water Gap
And turn it all to lake.) Yes, there were break-ins
Year after year. At length there came a night
When someone down on Clove Road saw a glow
High in the sky above the mountain's shoulder.
The firemen found its source at last and saved
The other buildings, with the help of rain,
But of the main barn house nothing was left.

The house you see, the one we dubbed the Shack,
Once chicken house or toolshed, then upgraded
To snugly paneled guest house, now sleeps eight.

Brook Minor's just beyond, with jewel weed
And watercress. . . A little ways below
We dammed it for a pool, a shaded pool
That's cool in hottest August. (Hardy souls
May venture one quick plunge.) It's there we draw
Water for washing, pail by pail. For drinking
A woodland spring, a quarter mile away,
Supplies our needs unflinching. The walk's
Pure pleasure, and the fresh pail's first cold cup -
There's no drink like it. There's another use
For pool and spring. One year on July third
We splurged on watermelons for the Fourth
And stored them in the pool. But in the night
It rained - oh, how it rained! and with the freshet
Over the dam the melons went. Next day
We found them bobbing in the marsh below.
Another time a dozen ears of corn,
A bucketful, we stood just by the bridge.
But when the cook sent someone down to fetch them
He soon was back, with "You said brook or spring?
There's no corn in the brook." "Let's look again;
The brook was where we left it." Sure enough,
A bit downstream we found the empty bucket,
Overturned, with empty cobs strewn near it,
And tell-tale footprints in the bank's soft mud.
"Oh, yes! I heard the coon hounds in the night."
And we could picture just how Mister Coon,
Hungry and tired, to shake off his pursuers
Took to the brook, and there he found a feast.
Whether 'twas coon or deer or who it was
We never knew, that when we stood some cartons
Of milk, reserve supply, right in the spring,
Daintily bit them open at the corners.
But we were sure it was the porcupine
Ate all the bark to four feet off the ground
And killed our lone Scotch pine. Sometimes before
We'd heard him gnawing underneath the house.

Skunks never bothered us. Early one morning,
Returning from the spring, I saw a mother
With her five young in line along a wall,
All unaware of me - a pretty sight.
We feed the chipmunks - it's as much tradition
To put bits on the old stone wall for them
As to have pancakes every Sunday morning.
One year we thought we had a fisher cat.
Rabbits and squirrels seemed to disappear;
We heard strange snarling noises in the night,
And found, one week-end, gray old Grandpa Woodchuck
Neatly laid out, you might say, on the half-shell.
The bigger beasts - the nobler, Thoreau called them -
The wolves and bears - old-timers said were gone
Long since, and it was cause for scornful laughter
When two of us came from a walk declaring
We'd seen bear traces. But the laugh was ours
Within a month or so, when State Park rangers
Captured two cubs not far from where we'd been.
And it was either two grown bears, each twice,
Or four bears once that local hunters saw
Below the dam when they were after deer
Year before last. (They pay us well to hunt here,
And keep an eye on things when we're away.)

Yes, wildness up to now's been coming back
For forty years. But can it last much longer
This near the city? What a loss 'twould be
If seasons passed and there were no arbutus,
No lady's slipper and no cardinal flower;
If June came on without its evening chorus
(Wood thrushes 'twas when we first came, but now
Veeries sing spirals. Once I heard a hermit);
Or toward mid-August, when the birds fall silent,
No katydid's tuned up to take their place;
And we should never hear from out the darkness
The owl's deep-voiced "Hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo"!

Swamp Pink and Rattle Snake Gut

In an area at the head of the tidewater, just upstream of the old rail road bridge along the stream they call Rattle Snake Gut, is a tributary joining the Cohansey River at Fairton Village in Fairfield Township, Cumberland County. This stream is lined by Atlantic white cedars with forests of tall oaks and bright blooming mountain laurel sloping to the wetlands. From its initial beginnings in 1991, the 17-acre land donation from the estate of Richard Buhlman has continued to get bigger and bigger. This year the Richard Buhlman Preserve grew again with an acquisition of the 47-acre Brown property.

This property was well suited for acquisition by the Trust because it offered some unique and useful features of benefit to the preserve. Most significant is the occurrence of the federally and state endangered swamp pink, a lovely spring flowering lily found growing in the wetlands. The Trust was aware of a stable and thriving population of swamp pink growing on the hummocks of the Atlantic white cedar swamp. Blooming in a fuzzy bright pink in an otherwise dark drab forest, the plants are easy to locate in early spring. However, the distinctive clumps of slender basal leaves can be found year-round. Protecting swamp pink populations in good habitat is vital to the species' overall recovery. Too often poor water quality and siltation issues threaten the plant. This site on Rattlesnake Gut exhibits high quality wetlands, making for an important addition to the preserve. The Trust worked closely with the Green Acres Program to see this happen. The scenic property includes steep hillsides of mature oak, beech, sassafras and mountain laurel. Wild turkeys frequent the hills in search of acorns or beach nuts. The flat, sandy uplands include a forest of large Virginia pines. The old field where the house and out buildings had been are now a home for bluebirds who nest in the old fruit trees at the edge of a field.

This property offers important public access opportunities, with good road frontage and a parking location for a few cars. Come out for a walk at the newest part of Richard Buhlman Preserve and see the head of the tidewater of Rattle Snake Gut.

Hunting Update

During the 2013-2014 hunting season over **3,715** hunters registered at Trust preserves through its website: www.njnlt.org. The Trust allows deer hunting only at many of its preserves to maintain biodiversity. The deer population in New Jersey is far greater than the ecosystem can sustain. Over-browsing by deer depletes native vegetation resulting in impacts to animal and plant habitat, such as decreased food sources and increased invasive plants.

In order to hunt at selected Trust preserves, hunters access the Trust's website, electronically submit information to the Trust, and print their own hunter registration letter with the required accompanying preserve map. The Trust is able to use this information to sort hunter registrations by preserve. Trust staff may reach out to hunters registered at a specific preserve to determine their interest in volunteering for clean-ups and maintenance projects. The Trust continues to use a "lottery" system for the ever-popular but limited hunting opportunities at our Limestone Ridge Preserve and Thomas F. Breden Preserve at Milford Bluffs.

It is important to note that the Trust does not allow hunting for waterfowl, small game, turkey or bear, as it maintains that only over-browsing by deer poses a threat to biodiversity. In addition, Sunday bow hunting is not authorized on Trust preserves as it is on state wildlife management areas and private property during deer season.

While hunting on Trust preserves, all rules and regulations in the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife game code must be followed. Hunting deer by bow and arrow, shotgun or muzzleloader are acceptable, depending on the preserve. No target shooting or discharge of weapons other than for deer hunting purposes is permitted. Permanent deer stands are not allowed, and portable deer stands, while permitted, must be removed after the hunting season is completed or are subject to confiscation by the Trust.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The Trust would like to acknowledge and thank its many volunteers for their invaluable contributions to the maintenance of Trust preserves. If you are interested in becoming a Trust volunteer monitor or attending a workday, please contact the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust at 609-984-1339, or email NatLands@dep.state.nj.us.

Donations

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust gratefully extends its thanks to the following who have donated land, funds or services to the Trust in 2013 to help preserve and protect New Jersey's natural diversity:

Conservation Resources Inc.
Peter Revilla
US Fish & Wildlife Service
William Penn Foundation
New Jersey Trails Program

For more information about how you can make a donation to further the Trust's mission to acquire, preserve and manage natural lands for the protection of natural diversity, please call 609-984-1339.

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust financial report is available upon request.

Stefan Martin Prints for Sale to Benefit the Trust

In 1984, the Trust commissioned a series of limited edition prints created exclusively for the Trust by New Jersey wood engraver Stefan Martin. Each of the three prints highlights an object of the Trust's preservation efforts: the State-endangered Peregrine Falcon, titled "Peregrine Falcon;" a northern New Jersey stream habitat titled, "Morning Stream;" and a grouping of three Pine Barrens Gentian, titled "Gentian." After Stefan Martin's death in a 1994 fishing accident, a fellow artist noted that Martin was "absolutely one of the most important artists in New Jersey. He won many awards, was nationally known, and very well-loved."

Unframed prints are \$150 each, or \$400 for all three (a \$50 savings). Remaining as of this writing are 203 "Peregrine Falcon," 126 "Morning Stream," and 18 "Gentian" prints.

To order, contact the Trust at 609-984-1339, or email NatLands@dep.state.nj.us and indicate which print or prints you would like to order and your name and phone number. We will get back to you with ordering details.

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NATURAL LANDS TRUST

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