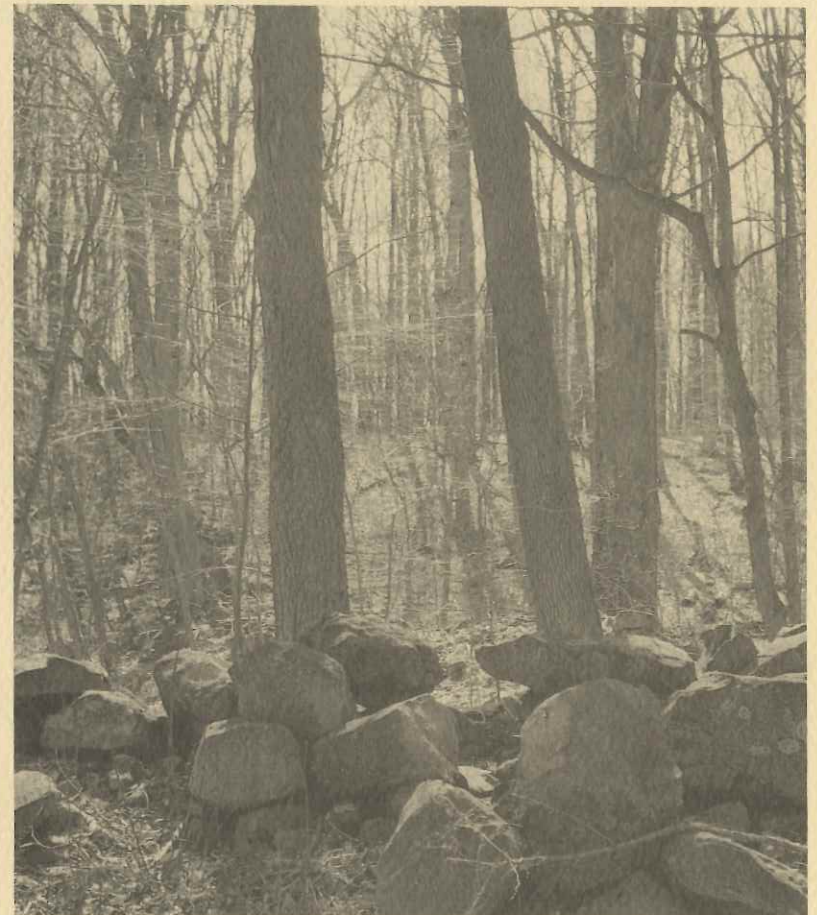




State of New Jersey
NATURAL LANDS TRUST
Annual Report 1984



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1984 was a year of many successes for the Natural Lands Trust: a year of reorganization, redirection and tremendous growth. In this past year the Trust changed leadership. A new Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and for the first time, a full-time staff and a part-time Executive Director were gained. Recognizing '84 as a turning point, the Trust clarified its goals and objectives and its niche among the State's many conservation organizations. Despite organizational and directional changes, which took much time and effort, the Trust was able to increase its landholdings by 50%.

Much of the Trust's success is due to its generous Board of Trustees who have donated their time and talents, and to the Office of Natural Lands Management in the Department of Environmental Protection which provides staff and administrative support. We are grateful to Governor Thomas H. Kean for his foresight in supporting the Natural Lands Trust as an assemblyman in 1968 when he voted favorably on legislation incorporating the Trust and for his continued support.

Our thanks to the Governor, our Board, our staff and supporters. We are very proud to report on our accomplishments for 1984.

Edward F. Babbott

Edward F. Babbott
Chairperson



The State of New Jersey Natural Lands Trust

New Jersey is the most urbanized and densely populated state in the nation, yet still possesses a wide variety of natural environments including pinelands, coastal and freshwater wetlands, barrier islands, rivers, inland lakes, streams, dunes, marshes and mountain ravines. This diversity of natural areas provides habitats for a variety of plants and wildlife including many rare and endangered species.

Preservation of open space for passive recreation, rare plant and animal habitat, and unusual or unique natural features, all contribute to maintaining New Jersey's natural heritage for present and future generations. As the state continues to grow, opportunities to acquire land, especially relatively large tracts of natural areas, decline and the need for their protection becomes more immediate. To meet this need, all avenues of acquisition must be pursued.

Since 1961, the State has been able to purchase land at fair market value for recreation, wildlife management, parks, forests and natural areas using funds voters have approved through five Green Acres Bond Issues. Such state funding is limited and will not be available to purchase all the land that is needed for preservation purposes. Other methods, in addition to outright purchase, need to be enlisted. The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was born of this realization. The Trust provides the vehicle within state government for preserving land through donation.

Created by legislative mandate in 1968 and established within the Department of Environmental Protection, the Trust encourages charitable gifts of land and manages the lands which it holds. Through a volunteer-supported Stewardship Program the Trust properties are protected for their valued natural elements and used for the benefit and enjoyment of all. To date, the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust has preserved and now manages a number of varied land types that range from endangered species habitat in the coastal region to New Jersey's longest cave system in mountainous Sussex County.

A Unique Conservation Organization

The Trust is guided by an 11-member Board of Trustees

whose majority representation is from the private sector. Six members are appointed by the Governor from recommendations of a nominating caucus of nongovernmental conservation organizations. The remaining five members are state officials.

The Trust is unique among conservation organizations, benefiting from its association with both the public and private sectors. It has the same assurance of permanency as state government, but is autonomous and can act quickly and independently. The Trust operates with a small appropriation from the State and administrative support through the Office of Natural Lands Management.

Through the private sector board representation the Trust gains innovative ideas, vital contacts and good communication and input from private conservation efforts. This creates an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competition and has resulted in several successful joint projects.

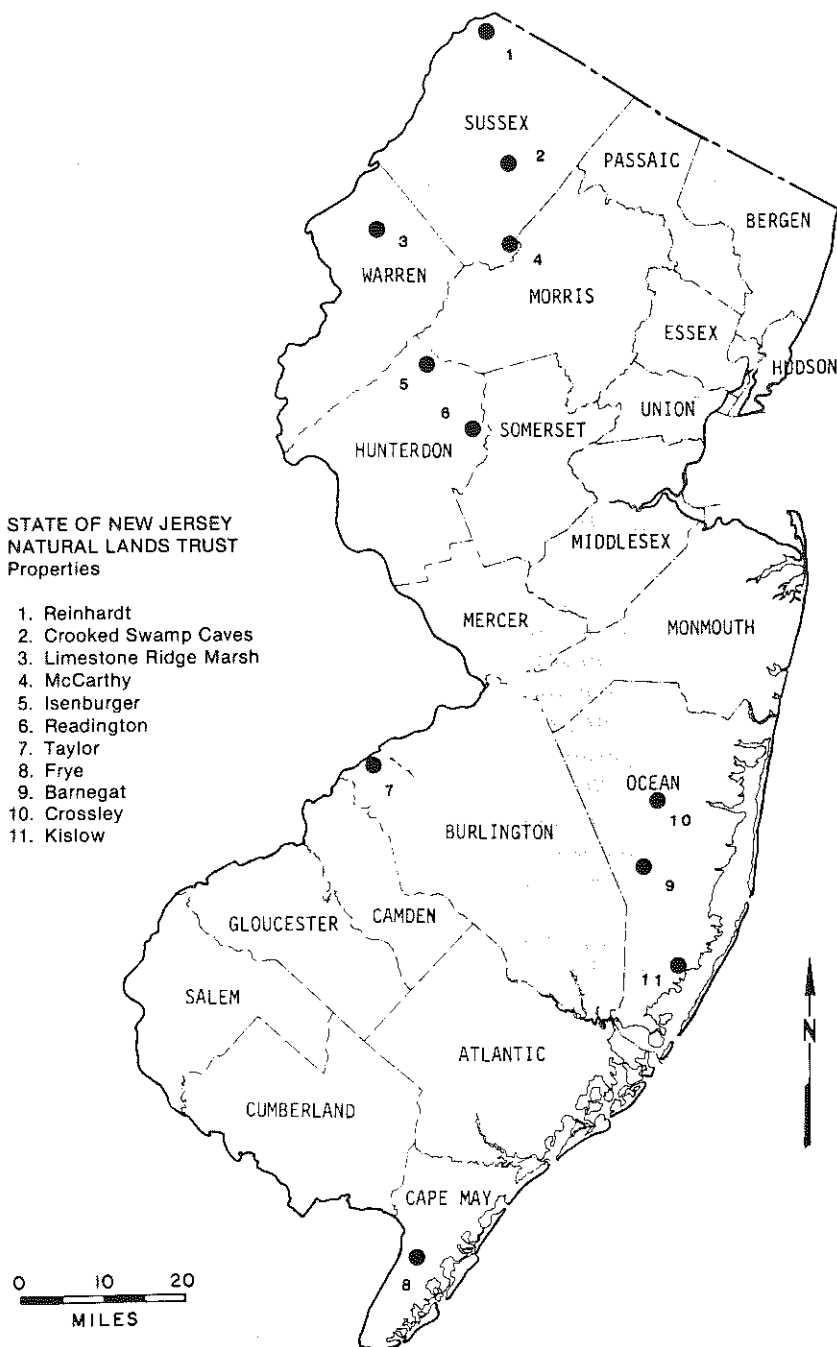
The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust is also different from all private non-profit organizations because it is a governmental body and as such is free from condemnation procedures. This means that neither the state government, the federal government (without a special act of Congress), nor any county or municipal government can usurp the Trust's land or its use as open space and wildlife habitat. A donation of land to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust is a gift of natural heritage offered for posterity with the greatest assurance of continued preservation that can be provided. Such permanency of a donation is an important consideration for land donors motivated by environmental concerns.

Landholdings

Since 1968, the Natural Lands Trust has acquired 11 donations of land totalling 1,018 acres. This land, in 1984, was valued in excess of \$2 million. Three new donations totalling 341 acres were received from Amoco Minerals Company, Gerkin/Board of Proprietors and Kislow in 1984. These acquisitions increased the land holdings of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust by 50%. The Trust has preserved a variety of natural environments and habitats located in Hunterdon, Sussex, Warren, Burlington, Ocean and Cape May Counties.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
NATURAL LANDS TRUST
Properties

1. Reinhardt
2. Crooked Swamp Caves
3. Limestone Ridge Marsh
4. McCarthy
5. Isenburger
6. Readington
7. Taylor
8. Frye
9. Barnegat
10. Crossley
11. Kislow



Readington Preserve

The Readington Preserve consists of two lots in Readington Township, Hunterdon County. The 26-acre site was received as a gift in 1968 to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and in 1975 was transferred to the Natural Lands Trust with certain conservation deed restrictions. The Trust now preserves and protects this site which has a diversity of habitats and topography: wet lowlands, floodplain, stream, fields, mature woodlands, steep slopes and a bluff.

The larger lot has 600 feet of access along the western bank of Rockaway Creek where sycamore, pin oak, red maple and black gum line the water course. The property is predominately wet lowlands, floodplain and open field and slopes gently in a southwestern direction away from the creek.

The smaller lot has limited access to the creek, though a tributary courses the southern property line. The site is densely wooded with eastern white pine, red maple, red cedar oak, black walnut and black gum distinctively divided into single species stands. The land is moderately to steeply sloping toward Rockaway Creek where a bluff overlooks the stream. The slopes are the steepest at the south bank of the creek.

Crooked Swamp Caves Preserve

The Crooked Swamp Cave property consists of 18 acres in Lafayette Township, Sussex County. This property was donated fee simple to the Trust in 1978 as an offset to residential development on adjoining properties. The property is characterized by rolling farmland and wooded hills which overlook a Township-owned and protected Great Blue Heron Rookery. The property has a large pond set in a meadow, another smaller cattail-fringed pond, and a small cedar-lined stream. There are a number of rock outcroppings and a limestone ridge. This limestone formation contains eight caves creating a cave network of 1,250 feet — the longest in the State. The New Jersey Cave Management Committee, formed from the North and Central Jersey Grotto Clubs, manages the caves and controls access to the two entrances.

Reinhardt Preserve

The Reinhardt property comprises nearly 300 acres in Montague Township, Sussex County and adjoins High Point State Park. The property was acquired by the Reinhardt family in 1840 and donated in fee simple to the Trust in 1973 for the perpetual preservation of the forest, waters and wildlife. The Reinhardt Preserve is managed jointly by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry and the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Frye Preserve

The Frye property consists of three parcels in Middle Township, Cape May County, totalling 187 acres; donated in fee simple to the Trust in 1975. The property, known as the "Mount Pleasant Plantation", is mostly farm and woodland and is crossed by the south branch of Wills Creek. The property is landlocked with access by easement.



Limestone Ridge Marsh, Blairstown (above).
McCarthy Preserve, Lake Hopatcong (right).

Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve

This two-parcel property of 21 acres in Blairstown Township, Warren County, was donated to the Trust in 1974 and is title restricted with a life estate.

The property spans a tributary of the Paulinskill River and is bisected by Spring Brook. Much of the site has been flooded by a beaver dam and is now marsh habitat. In the upland portion, a dense hardwood forest of white and red oak, sugar maple and hickory, is replacing an older red and Atlantic cedar forest. A steep-sloped limestone ridge encircles most of the marsh. The vegetation on the ridge is markedly different from the other areas and has the greatest diversity of plant life including black locust, birch, tulip trees, cedar and dogwood.

The Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve includes pasture and orchards in addition to marsh, woodlands and ridges. This diversity of habitat provides for a variety of wildlife: beaver, muskrat, grey squirrel, black duck, mallards and green and blue heron among many others. Also present is a network of trails which allow passive recreational use of the preserve.



McCarthy Preserve

The McCarthy Preserve is approximately 4 acres in the Borough of Hopatcong, Sussex County. The property was a deed-restricted donation to the Trust in 1975. Known locally as Pilcher's Point Preserve, the property abuts Eagles Nest, a locally historic site, and lies atop a belt of Precambrian Rocks — the Reading Prong. The northern section of the property is gently sloped and flat in certain areas, the larger southern section is steeply sloped. Rock outcroppings are frequent.

The topography provides a scenic vista of Lake Hopatcong and of the property's 220-foot frontage along the lake's rocky shoreline. A hardwood forest prevails on the steep rock slopes. Tree species include chestnut, scarlet and white oak.

The property provides access to fishermen and passive recreation for a limited number of others. It is a small oasis for wildlife whose habitat was destroyed by high and medium density residential development in close proximity.

Isenburger Preserve

The Isenburger tract is a 32-acre parcel in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County donated in 1974 to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and turned over to the Trust in 1975 with certain deed restrictions.

From a summit in the Southeastern corner of the property the land slopes moderately to steeply. Approximately 18 acres of land are covered with native hardwoods. In the steep and rocky sections are white, scarlet, chestnut and swamp oak and in the lower flatter areas are black birch and red maple. The remaining 14 acres were reforested with various conifers. Two trails intertwine on this property to provide passive recreation.

The property borders residential and commercial areas, but much of the land in the general vicinity of the tract is owned and protected by the Hunterdon County Park Commission.

Taylor Preserve

A conservation easement was donated to the Trust in 1975 for 89 acres of the Taylor property. The property, known as the Riverside Homestead Farm, is located in the Township of Cinaminson, Burlington County.

The property borders the Delaware River and is nearly level ranging in elevation from 10 to 20 feet. The area is characterized by wetlands, swamp, river, floodplain and meadow habitats and supports a wide variety of plant and animal life. In addition to the typical wetlands vegetation, there is sweet gum, red maple, pin oak, tulip tree, sycamore and willow oak.

General agriculture, including livestock raising, is practiced on the adjoining lands while the easement is used for education, passive recreation and habitat protection.

The Taylor easement has created an important wildlife refuge and an enclave of nature adjoining the only operating farm fronting on the Delaware between Trenton and Camden.

Crossely Preserve

In 1984 the Trust received a fee simple donation from Amoco Minerals Company of 251 acres of land in Berkeley and Manchester Townships, Ocean County. The donation is one of the largest gifts of land received by the Trust and is valued for its unspoiled Pine Barrens landscape and endangered species habitat. The pine and oak forest, abandoned cranberry bog and sand trails (once a right-of-way for the Penn Central Railroad) provides habitat features which support the endangered Pine Barrens tree frog, northern pine snake and corn snake.

The site is a known habitat for at least one threatened plant species and may harbor a number of others. A plant survey of the property to identify additional plant populations is scheduled.

Part of the property may also have historical significance as the location of the lost town of Crossely, an old clay mining town that produced terra-cotta goods.

Barnegat Preserve

The Gerkin and the Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey properties were donated in fee simple to the Trust in 1984. These two adjacent parcels total approximately 88 acres and are located in Barnegat Township, Ocean County.

The properties border land owned by Barnegat Township and the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and are located within the Pinelands Forest Zone. Approximately half of the property is upland forest dominated by pine species; the remaining portion is pine and shrub lowlands and wetlands. The property includes the headwaters of the East Branch of the Wading River and is potential but not confirmed threatened species habitat.



Kislow Preserve, Stafford (above).
Steel gate constructed by volunteers at Crooked Swamp Caves Preserve, Lafayette (right).

Kislow Preserve

The Kislow property consists of 2 acres in Stafford Township, Ocean County donated to the Trust in 1984. The Southwest border of the tract runs along the mean high water line of Cedar Run, a tributary extending to Manahawkin Bay. The property is composed primarily of wetlands vegetation and is bordered by the Barnegat Wildlife Refuge which is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Stewardship Program

This year the Trust initiated a Stewardship Program designed to enlist volunteers to manage its various preserves. The program focuses on protecting those natural features that contribute to the preserves' environmental significance and sensitivity and provides opportunities for public passive recreation.

Each preserve will be managed by a committee consisting of volunteers from neighbors, special interest groups, and/or interested citizens. These individuals will be responsible for sign posting, litter pick-up, general maintenance, environmental inventories, visitor control, photo-histories of the natural features and regular reporting to the Board of Trustees. The Trust will rely on these committees to manage the preserves under general guidelines established by the Board.

The Trust has had great success with their first management agreement with the New Jersey Cave Management Committee, formed by representatives of the Northern New Jersey and Central New Jersey Grotto Clubs. The Committee completed the construction of two solid steel gates to secure the entrances to the Crooked Swamp (Breathing) Caves Preserve. Cave access is limited to those individuals with sufficient caving experience and the Committee accompanies the cavers on their exploration. The work has been undertaken with great pride by these volunteers who have a personal interest in the land and in preserving the cave system.

The Trust plans to establish more stewardship programs in 1985 because of the success of the Cave Management Committee.



Public Education and Fund Raising

In 1984, the Trust undertook a major fund raising effort by marketing a series of limited edition prints created exclusively for the Trust by New Jersey engraver Stefan Martin. Each engraving highlights an object of the Trust's preservation efforts. The first is of the endangered "Peregrine Falcon;" the second, is a northern New Jersey stream habitat entitled, "Morning Stream;" and the third is a grouping of three Pine Barrens "Gentian".



Governor Thomas H. Kean presented with "Peregrine Falcon" print at Earth Day. (Left to right) Thomas F. Hampton, Executive Director; George J. Tyler, Assistant Commissioner, DEP; Governor Kean; Newton LeVine, Vice Chairperson; and Stefan Martin, Artist.

The first print of the series was presented to Governor Thomas Kean on Earth Day, April 24, at Rutgers University, in recognition of his past environmental efforts and support of the Trust. At a reception held May 3 at the New Jersey State Museum the donation of the series was accepted by Secretary of State Jane Burgio on behalf of the Museum and the general public. The prints have been displayed in the State Capitol and other major state buildings, banks and museums and the series has and will be spotlighted in Stefan Martin's art shows throughout the State. Funds raised from the sale of the prints are used to defray management costs for the Trust's land-holdings.

The Trust also began efforts to inform the public about the importance of open space preservation, the immediate need for natural element protection, and the options and tax implications of charitable gifts of land. These include:

- An information package that will include a general brochure on the Trust, the annual report, a listing of available giving options, and related, current and technical tax information, and
- A Public Service Announcement that identifies and describes the Trust and its purpose. The 30-second PSA will be aired in 1985.

Also initiated is a fund for Plant Protection to which a number of special interest groups have made contributions. The Trust will take the lead in the promotion and protection of rare plants in New Jersey through land acquisitions and public education. This role has grown from the strong public response to the threatened plant species list recently published by the Office of Natural Lands Management. Because the State has no official program to protect threatened plants, the Trust feels that promoting protection among the public is an appropriate first step.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward F. Babbott, Ed. D. (1979) - Chairperson of the Board; Former Director of Guidance, Chatham; Consultant for Beaufort County School District, Borough High School. Former President of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Morristown. Resides in Morristown, New Jersey.

Nicholas Conover English (1984) - Retired Partner, McCarter & English, Newark; Member, House of Delegates of the American Bar Association; Former Trustee, New Jersey State Bar Association; Vice Chairperson and Treasurer, National Board of YMCA's. Resides in Summit, New Jersey.

Helen C. Fenske (1982) - Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection; Former Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Resides in Green Village, New Jersey.

Marly Goodspeed (1983) - Hunterdon County Historian; Part-time farmer; Vice Chairperson, Delaware Township Planning Board. Resides in Delaware Township, New Jersey.

Joseph F. Haggerty (1983) - Director, Morris County Park Commission; Former Secretary and current member, Legislative Committee for New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association. Resides in Gladstone, New Jersey.

Thomas F. Hampton (1983) - Executive Director. Administrator of the Office of Natural Lands Management; Former Chief of the Bureau of Coastal Enforcement and Field Services. Resides in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Frank Leary (1983) - Writer and Communications Consultant; Chairman, Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council; Board Member, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions; Member, Environmental Collegium. Resides in Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

Hermia Lechner (1982) - Administrator of the Green Acres Program; Former Mayor, Clinton Township; Former Executive Vice President, South Branch Watershed Association. Resides in Clinton, New Jersey.

Newton LeVine (1979) - Vice Chairperson of the Board. Planner/Urban Designer and practicing Architect; Associate Professor of Architecture and Design, Ramapo College. Resides in Ramsey, New Jersey.

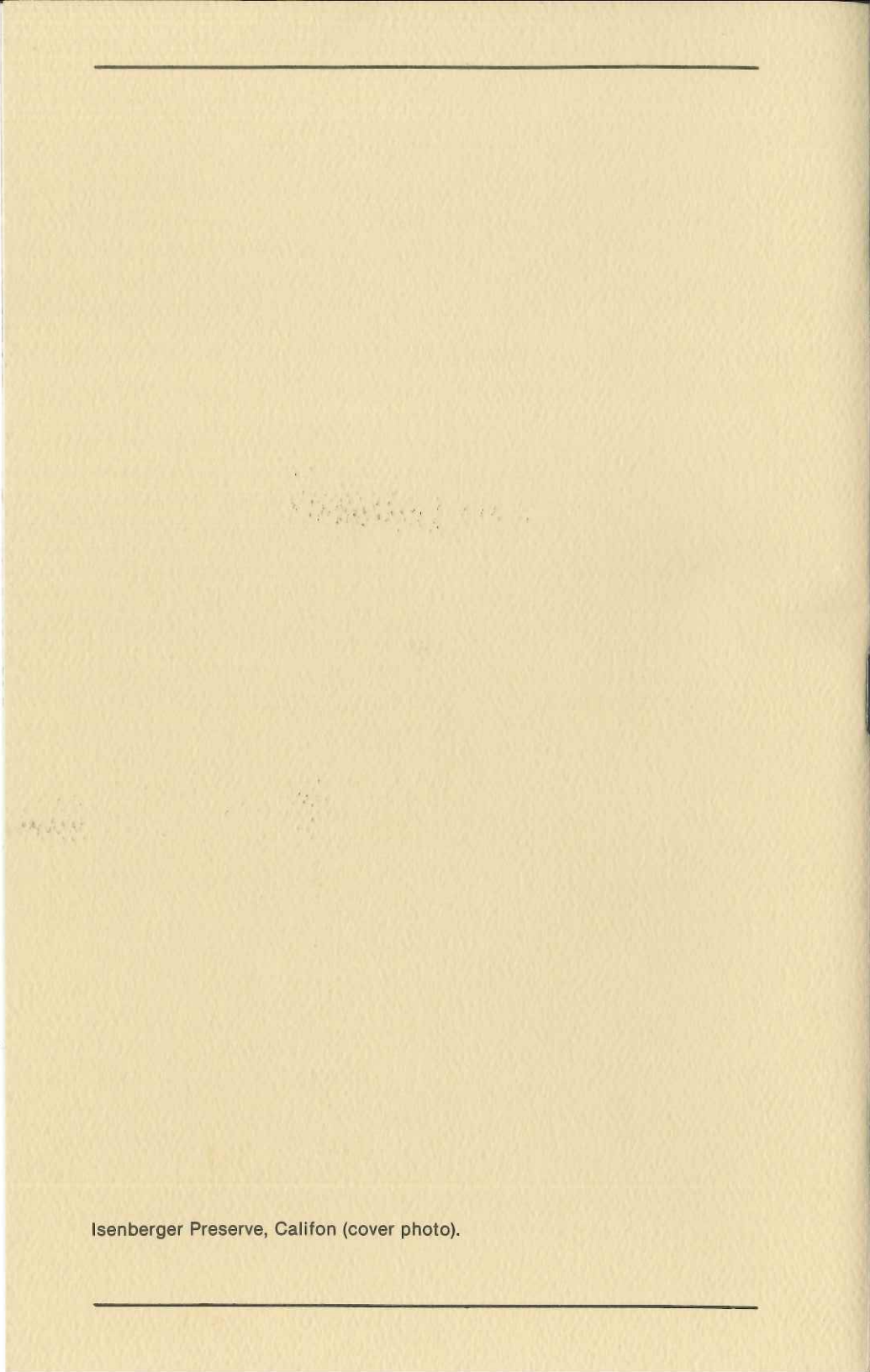
David F. Moore (1969) - Secretary/Treasurer (non-voting member). Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation; Member, New Jersey Natural Areas Council; Chairperson, New Jersey Tidelands Resource Council. Resides in Frenchtown, New Jersey.

State House Commission designee - vacant
State Treasurer designee - vacant



State of New Jersey
NATURAL LANDS TRUST
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Isenberger Preserve, Califon (cover photo).