



NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST



2001 ANNUAL REPORT



Statement of Purpose

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was created in 1968 by the Legislature 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 natural 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 printed information and sponsors interpretive programs and seminars designed to convey a conservation ethic for the protection of open space and its natural values.

Index of Preserves Referenced within the 2001 Annual Report

Atlantic County

Babcock Creek Preserve	1,7
Costa Preserve	4,5
Hamilton Preserve	1
Holiday Preserve	1
John's Woods Preserve	4,5
Silver Preserve	1

Burlington County

Bear Swamp at Red Lion Preserve	7
Retreat Preserve	1,7
Taylor Wildlife Preserve	8

Camden County

Penny Pot Preserve	5
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Gloucester County

Big Timber Creek Preserve	1
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Hunterdon County

Hagedorn Preserve	1,6
Milford Bluffs Preserve	1
Sweet Hollow Preserve	1

Ocean County

Clamming Creek	3
Crossley Preserve	2,4,5
Mystic Island Preserve	4,5

Sussex County

Congleton Wildlife Sanctuary	1
Lubbers Run Preserve	4,5
Reinhardt Preserve	1
Wallkill Preserve	1,5,6

Warren County

Mountain Lake Bog Preserve	1
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Front Cover Photo: Freshwater Wetlands at the Taylor Preserve.

Photo Credits: Marian Brovero—page 3 (second photo); Martin Rapp—cover photo, page 2, 3 (first photo), 6, 7; Stockton College—page 8; Martha Windisch—page 1, 4, 5.

2001 A Successful Year

THE NATURAL LANDS TRUST completed seventeen individual closings, bringing 1,937 additional acres under Trust stewardship. With these closings the Trust had its most successful year in terms of acreage since 1993. The Trust is currently responsible for over 15,835 acres located throughout the state.

The considerable acreage obtained in 2001 stemmed from quite a few large acquisitions. 2001 acquisitions of 90 acres or greater are listed below:

- A 588-acre addition to the Hamilton Preserve
- The Retreat Preserve phase II 362-acre donation
- The Hagedorn-Human Services 353-acre donation
- An additional 193-acre addition to the Hamilton Preserve
- A 127-acre addition to the Congleton Wildlife Sanctuary
- The Babcock Creek 94-acre donation
- An additional 99.8-acre addition to the Congleton Wildlife Sanctuary

Seven of the Trust's new holdings were donated directly to the Trust; whereas, ten new holdings were transferred to the Trust for management through the state's Green Acres Program. Fourteen of the seventeen new land holdings represented additions to the following Trust preserves: Silver, Holiday, Hamilton (2 additions), Retreat, Big Timber Creek, Sweet Hollow, Reinhardt (2 additions), Congleton (2 additions), Wallkill (2 additions), and Mountain Lake Bog.

Three additions to the Trust established two new Trust Preserves: one donation established the Babcock Creek Preserve and one donation along with one Green Acres' acquisition established the Hagedorn Preserve.



Michael Catania presents gifts of appreciation to David Moore.

Several of the 2001 Trust acquisitions were made possible by the cooperation of other agencies, non-profit organizations, or for-profit corporations. These include the Babcock Creek donation, the Retreat phase II donation, the

Hagedorn-Human Services donation, and the Wallkill River New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) donation (see "Joining Forces...", page 6).

Personnel Notes

On January 17, 2001, Thomas F. Hampton, the Administrator of the Office of Natural Lands Management (ONLM) and the Executive Director of the NJ Natural Lands Trust sadly lost his battle with cancer. Tom had been with the ONLM since the office's inception in 1984 (see page 2 for an article in memory of Tom).

In June 2001, Thomas F. Breden was appointed as Administrator of the

ONLM and also became the Executive Director of the Natural Lands Trust (Trust by-laws state that the Administrator of the ONLM will serve as Executive Director of the Natural Lands Trust). Mr. Breden had previously worked for the ONLM as the Natural Heritage Program Supervisor from 1984 to 2001.

In September 2001, David F. Moore retired as the Trust's non-voting Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Moore was a founding member of the Trust, Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation from 1969 to 1999, and has been an important leader of the conservation movement in New Jersey. During the September 2001 Trust Board Meeting held at the Natural Lands Trust's scenic Millford Bluffs Preserve, a resolution was passed extending appreciation to David F. Moore for his tenure with the Trust. To go along with the resolution, Mr. Moore was presented gifts of a pitchfork and a shovel engraved with "throughout his tenure, he has dug deeply into his considerable talents and pitched in to help the Trust grow into a successful conservation organization." In his retirement, Mr. Moore will continue to serve the Trust as an advisor when needed.

Theresa Lettman, a Natural Lands Trust Trustee since 1995 was appointed as the Trust's Secretary/Treasurer. She is an active environmentalist in Ocean County and has been a staff member of the Pine-lands Preservation Alliance since 1990.



"...the Trust had its most successful year in terms of acreage since 1993."

In Memory of **Thomas F. Hampton**

Executive Director, New Jersey Natural Lands Trust 1983–2001

THE TRUST WISHES TO EXPRESS A SAD FAREWELL to Thomas F. Hampton, the Founding Administrator of the Office of Natural Lands Management and also the Founding Executive Director of the Natural Lands Trust. Tom lost his gallant battle with leukemia on January 17, 2001. He is sorely missed by family, friends, and colleagues.

Tom started his career in the State Department of Environmental Protection in 1972 working in coastal protection and rose to the position of Chief of Coastal Enforcement. In 1983, he was given a new challenge—build an office to manage natural land

preservation and stewardship across the entire state. Former Assistant Commissioner Helen Fenske recalled, “He had no office, had no budget, had no staff. Nobody knew where to put him. But he took it.” He incorporated several existing programs to build this new office. He included the Natural Areas Program to provide recognition and management

for special areas of natural diversity

in State Parks, Forests and Wildlife Management Areas. The Natural Lands Trust was brought on board to establish nature preserves outside of major state land holdings. He also integrated the Wild and Scenic

Rivers Program to bring attention to significant rivers in the state, and the New Jersey Trails Program to foster passive recreation.

Tom also saw a need for new programs and, under his leadership, the Office grew to include an Open Lands Management Program to encourage opening access of private lands for passive recreation. He worked to have legislation passed to establish a State Endangered Plant Species List, paving the way for regulatory and

voluntary protection of endangered plant species habitat. He established a Natural Heritage Program to build a database of information to identify imperiled species and natural communities, and to locate critical habitat for the preservation of natural diversity. Starting with nothing, he built an office that leads the preservation of lands for

the protection of natural diversity and the enjoyment of present and future generations of people. As Helen Fenske has said, “His work counted and it will count forever.”

The Natural Lands Trust blossomed under his leadership. In the first fifteen years of the Trust prior to Tom’s arrival, a total of 8 preserves covering 610 acres were acquired. At the time of his death,

the Trust’s land holdings had grown to over 100 preserves and 13,898 acres.

One of the Trust’s first big land acquisitions under Tom’s leadership was a 251-acre tract of Pine Barrens named the Crossley Preserve in Manchester and Berkeley Townships of Ocean County. Today Crossley covers 1391 acres. It was one of Tom’s favorite preserves. In October 2001 the nature trail at the Crossley Preserve was dedicated to the memory of Thomas F. Hampton.



Tom Hampton (left) inventorying species at Crossley Preserve.

2001

Beyond his accomplishments in New Jersey’s natural land conservation, Tom also gave his time and talents to serve on the national Board of Directors of the Natural Areas Association, and as Director and President of the Lakewood Township Public School Board. Those who have had the privilege of knowing him personally or professionally will remember his dedication to his work, his thoroughness and professionalism, his brilliance, his seemingly effortless ability to solve problems and broker compromise, his wise advice, his good nature, his sense of humor, and his friendship. We will miss him very much and remember him well.

Starting with nothing, he built an office that leads the preservation of lands for the protection of natural diversity and the enjoyment of present and future generations of people.



Open Marsh Water Management at the Trust's Clamming Creek Preserve

THE SALT MARSH WETLANDS WITHIN THE TRUST'S Clamming Creek Preserve in Berkeley Township, Ocean County are washed by daily tides allowing for the transport of life-giving nutrients between the water and the land. As is the whole of the Barnegat Bay estuary, this preserve is a critical habitat and nursery for the fish and shellfish populations of Barnegat Bay. A plethora of wildlife, including many species of waterfowl and shorebirds, rely on the abundance of food within this salt marsh. Humans also rely on estuaries such as this for food and recreational opportunities.

Taking Action

In 2001, the NJ Natural Lands Trust, caretaker of the Clamming Creek marsh ecosystem, decided to take action to keep the marsh healthy for wildlife. Years ago the Clamming Creek marsh was ditched for mosquito control. Since then, the old mosquito ditches have gradually become plugged, preventing the tides from flushing, the nutrients from being transported, and allowing mosquitoes to breed in the stagnant waters. The sound of buzzing mosquitoes and the sight of withering salt marsh grasses revealed the extent of the problem.

Working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ocean County Mosquito Extermination Commission, the Trust decided to employ Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM) techniques at Clamming Creek. These techniques will improve the marsh habitat and, at the same time, reduce the breeding of mosquitoes. Using expertise and custom-designed machinery from the

Ocean County Mosquito Extermination Commission, a new and improved

system of tidal ditches has begun to be carved through portions of the marsh. "The ditches are designed to enhance the natural flush of tides over the marsh," says Eric Schradang, Private

Lands Coordinator with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Within this ditch system, artificial ponds are created to hold water during low tide, creating a refuge for small fish such as mummichog and killifish. These fish thrive on mosquito larvae preventing the larvae from reaching the adult stage.

A Healthy Habitat

The OMWM technique has proven successful on other marshes along Barnegat Bay. The technique has encouraged the growth of the native *Spartina* salt marsh grasses, replacing the

undesirable thick stands of common reed, also known as *Phragmites*. Using OMWM at Clamming Creek will keep the marsh's *Spartina* grasses growing, providing a healthy habitat for the wildlife that rely on the marsh, while, at the same time, naturally controlling breeding mosquitoes so fewer quantities of pesticides are required. The project will allow the Clamming Creek Preserve to remain an important and scenic Barnegat Bay resource.



Open Marsh Water Management at Clamming Creek Preserve.



Clamming Creek Preserve



The project will allow the Clamming Creek Preserve to remain an important and scenic Barnegat Bay resource.

Trust Volunteers

Lending a Hand

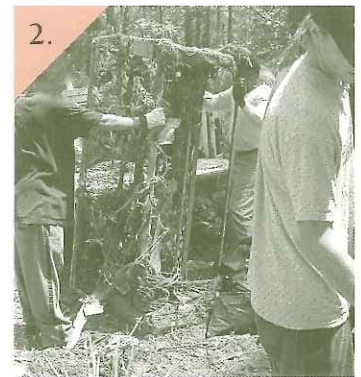
2001

This year's group of volunteers ranged from a middle school environmental club, to Americorps volunteers, to a Cub Scout pack, to college students, to adjudicated youth, to senior citizens, to community government officials, and a host of individuals interested in being stewards of their local environment.

In 2001, 300 hours were reported by Monitoring and Outreach Volunteers and an additional 558 hours were logged for volunteer work on management projects for a total of 858 volunteer hours donated to the Trust! The estimated value of their services compares to hiring a part-time employee for one year. However, one person alone could not have achieved the extent of labor and the level of monitoring that is accomplished by our many dedicated volunteers. Thus, the Trust cannot begin to stress the importance of and gratitude for the many hours that were contributed by volunteers in 2001!

The following photo collage gives recognition to our indispensable, hard-working, and self-motivated volunteers...

IN 2001, TRUST VOLUNTEERS WERE INVOLVED with clean ups at six Trust Preserves, trail maintenance at the Crossley Nature Trail, the installation of an osprey platform at Mystic Island Preserve, and monitoring and reporting findings for sixteen Trust Preserves. An outreach volunteer also presented a slideshow featuring the Crossley Preserve and led several walks at Crossley.



*New Jersey Natural Lands Trust proudly gives
recognition to our volunteers.*





1. Young people from the Community Service Learning for Adjudicated Youth Program removing a dumped pool liner at Johns Woods Preserve; and 2. properly disposing a dumped sofa at the Costa Preserve; 3. Cub Scout Pack 156 building a bench to give hikers a place to rest on the Crossley Nature Interpretive Trail; 4. Scouts showing off the use of the completed bench; 5. Barbara Utz, the teacher who started the Environmental Club at Byram Township Intermediate School, gives the club members instructions prior to embarking on an inspection and clean up at the Lubbers Run Preserve located across the street from the school; 6. Byram Township Intermediate School Environmental Club members cleaning up litter beside Lubbers Run. 7. & 8. Project U.S.E. (Urban Suburban Environments) volunteers put up an osprey platform at the Trust's Mystic Island Preserve. The group prepares the platform for transport by boat—all manual rowing power, no motor! 9. Elizabeth Tomasello, an AmeriCorps Volunteer and a young-at-heart senior citizen, was the brainchild of the Mystic Island Osprey platform. She was responsible for getting the material for the platform donated and her son Norman and his industrial arts class at Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing built the platform to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife specifications; 10. Project U.S.E. Volunteers raise the osprey platform; 11. Job well done; 12. posting a preserve sign to mark the trail at the Lubbers Run Preserve; 13. Students involved in Centenary College's Community Plunge Program, where freshmen spend a day of volunteerism within the local area, clean up the Trust's Wallkill Preserve; 14. Gus and Elsie Saarinen, Crossley Preserve Monitors, complete a trash clean up at Crossley Preserve; 15. An AmeriCorps Volunteer who has volunteered to monitor the Trust's Penny Pot Preserve checks the gate that has been installed to keep out illegal dumpers.



The estimated value of their services compares to hiring a part-time employee for one year.

Joining Forces

Partnerships for Preservation

2001

New Jersey Natural Lands Trust's corporate partners include:

Shell Oil Company
BASF
The Prudential
Hoeganaes, Inc.
and a host of others.

Municipal partners include:

Moorestown Township
Burlington County
Franklin Township
Somerset County
Hamilton Township
Atlantic County
and numerous others.

The Trust also has partnered in cooperative projects with New Jersey Department of the Treasury, New Jersey Green Acres Program, New Jersey Land Use Regulation Program, The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Trust for Public Land, Save Barnegat Bay, the Morris Land Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust of Pennsylvania, New Jersey Audubon, and many more. These partners have assisted in acquisition work through the donation of land, contribution of funds or materials, recruitment of other partners, and promotion of the Trust's work. In 2001, of the 1,937 acres added to the Trust's inventory, over 843 acres were added directly through arrangements involving partnerships.

THE TRUST IS PROUD OF ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS in forming alliances for the preservation of environmentally significant lands. The Trust's acquisition work relies heavily on partnerships with individuals, corporations, local governments, public agencies, developers, and nonprofit organizations.

Wallkill River Valley

The first partnership-inspired transfer in 2001 occurred within the Wallkill

River Valley in Sparta Township, Sussex County. It all started when

the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) was required to perform mitigation as a result of wetlands filled by road construction.

A non-working farm along the Wallkill River was selected for the mitigation project. Martin Kusek of the Property and Relocation Section of NJDOT referred to New Jersey's

State Plan and recognized the ecological importance of the Wallkill River Valley, and when it was time to find a home for this mitigated property, he asked the Trust to protect it in perpetuity. This 34.2-acre addition to the Trust's 134-acre Wallkill Preserve has a pastoral old field setting and is important habitat for protection of endangered species that call the Wallkill River Valley home.



Hagedorn Preserve

Lebanon Township

Another 2001 partnership-inspired transfer to the New Jersey Natural

Lands Trust came to pass at the New Jersey Garrett W. Hagedorn

Gero-Psychiatric Hospital in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County.

The transfer occurred when the NJ Department of Human Services and the NJ Department of Treasury representatives decided that 353 undeveloped acres of the Hagedorn Campus would best serve the public as preserved open space.

Due to the existing use of Hagedorn in providing full-time care for over 260 residents, the Trust's unobtrusive management style appealed to the decision-makers controlling the future of these natural lands and, thus, the Trust was selected to be the steward of the newly formed Hagedorn Preserve.

The Trust's acquisition work relies heavily on partnerships with individuals, corporations, local governments, public agencies, developers, and nonprofit organizations.



Pinelands

In 2001, two additional land transfers involving Trust partners transpired within the New Jersey Pinelands. The Trust's Retreat Preserve in Southampton Township, Burlington County was increased by 362 acres as part of the second phase of land donations dictated by a multi-faceted agreement with LeisureTechnology, a private developer. The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey spearheaded the effort with input from the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, Southampton Township, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. This addition to the Retreat Preserve includes historically and environmentally important lands along tributaries of the South Branch of the Rancocas Creek, fitting nicely within a greenway reaching to the Trust's Bear Swamp at Red Lion Preserve two miles to the southwest.



Bear Swamp at Red Lion Preserve

Babcock Creek Preserve

The final partnership-inspired transfer of 2001 came about when a savvy private developer discovered that being environmentally responsible is a big plus when marketing a development to local, state and federal authorities. Parkshore Development Corporation donated 94 acres of mixed

Pinelands upland and lowland forest, the Babcock Creek Preserve, as part of a proposal to develop a small office park on an adjacent 5-acre site in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County. The donated property lies in the immediate vicinity of a planned Atlantic County bike and walking trail, which may someday connect several Trust Preserves with other Township-owned parklands.

These examples show what can be accomplished

through the Trust's various partnerships. With intense development pressure placed on New Jersey's remaining unprotected open space, retaining old partnerships and fostering new partnerships is vital for the Trust in its mission to preserve the state's natural diversity.

2001

List of Donors

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust gratefully extends its thanks to those who have donated land or funds to the Trust in 2001 to help preserve and protect New Jersey's natural heritage.

David A. Bretz

Linnae C. Coss

Interlake Foundation

L&L Redi-Mix Concrete

Mays Landing Sportsmens Club

**NJDER, Natural
Resource Damages**

**The Nature Conservancy
of New Jersey**

**New Jersey Department
of Human Services**

**New Jersey Department
of Transportation**

**Parkshore Development
Corporation**

Shell Oil Company

Guy Tunney

*Also in 2001, the
New York District of the U.S.
Army Corps of Engineers
arranged for the Trust to receive a
donation from
an enforcement/mitigation case.*



With intense development pressure placed on New Jersey's remaining unprotected open space, retaining old partnerships and fostering new partnerships is vital for the Trust.

Harold Evans Taylor—"Hal"

Physicist, farmer, and friend of nature—1939–2001

ON DECEMBER 27, 2001, HAROLD EVANS TAYLOR, known as "Hal" lost his decade-long struggle of living strongly and gracefully with cancer. He will be missed by all who knew him—including the NJ Natural Lands Trust.

In 1975, the Trust became acquainted with the Taylor family, when Sylvia and Joseph, Hal's mother and father, chose to permanently protect their farm, the last remaining farm along the Delaware River between Camden and Trenton. They protected the farm by donating an 89-acre conservation easement to the NJ Natural Lands Trust. The Taylors, being good farmers and land stewards, always strove to share their land ethic with others. This was further accomplished when the Taylors opened up the farm in Cinnaminson, Burlington County to daytime visitation. They constructed a self-guided interpretative trail so others could learn about the

farm's history, its freshwater wetlands, the Delaware River bank and floodplain, and the wildlife that finds sanctuary there.

Following in his parents' footsteps, Hal, who spent much of his childhood at the River Side Homestead Farm, appreciated nature and wanted to educate others to appreciate and preserve natural lands. Hal's interest in a healthy environment, the stewardship of nature, and the preservation of open space is evidenced by his leadership roles in the Pompeston Creek Watershed Association and the Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve, and also by the fact that he was an active participant in the State's current Watershed Area planning process. Hal also focused on academics. He attended Haverford College,

received his master's degree in meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earned a doctorate in physics from the University of Iowa, and worked as a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences and at Princeton University. In 1971, Hal became a professor at Richard Stockton College where he taught physics, meteorology, and astronomy. He developed the Stockton Observatory

and helped the school convert its heating and air conditioning system to geothermal energy.

Hal was a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends, was active in the Westfield Friends Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee, clerked the Representative Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, served on the governing board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, and

was under appointment to the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

After the death of his father in 1991, Hal moved back to Cinnaminson to manage the farm with his mother. For 10 years, he harvested crops at the Taylor's Pick-Your-Own Organic Fruit and Vegetable Farm and commuted to Stockton for his teaching duties.

"The farm is facing a time of transition", reflected Kitty Taylor-Mizuno on the loss of her brother, "I will miss my brother's leadership and commitment to ecology and education...The Taylor family has a huge interest to preserve the farm in an era where natural lands are being destroyed...We have a large extended family. I know they'll all be coming to help."



Hal Taylor

2001

As quoted from The Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve's newsletter:

"It is now up to us to carry on the vision that Hal and (his father) Joe shared." The following is an excerpt from a poem by Wendell Berry that Friends of Taylor Preserve dedicated to Hal... "Calling his neighbors to return, to think again of the care of the flocks and herds, of gardens and fields, of woodlots and forests and the uncut groves, calling them separately and together, calling and calling, he goes forever toward the long restful evening and the croak of the night heron over the river at dark."

Hal was an active participant in the State's current Watershed Area planning process.





The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust

Board of Trustees

An eleven-member Board of Trustees sets policy for the Trust. Six members are appointed by the Governor from the recommendations of a nominating caucus of conservation organizations and five members are State officials.

Michael Catania (Chairperson), *Executive Director of New Jersey Field Office of The Nature Conservancy.*

Emile DeVito, *Director of Conservation Biology, New Jersey Conservation Foundation.*

Ruth Ehinger, *Office of Coastal Planning and Program Coordination, Department of Environmental Protection.*

Betsy Foster, *member, New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs.*

Thomas Gilmore, *President, New Jersey Audubon Society.*

Theresa Lettman, *Pinelands Preservation Alliance.*

Honorable John A. Lynch, *Senator from District 17 and member of the State House Commission.*

Anthony Mazzella, *Director, Property & Lease Negotiations. Representing the State Treasurer.*

Leigh Rae, *Director, The Trust for Public Land, New Jersey Field Office.*

Thomas Wells, *Administrator, Green Acres Program, Department of Environmental Protection.*

Cari Wild (Vice Chairperson), *Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources, Department of Environmental Protection; representing the Commissioner.*

David F. Moore/Theresa Lettman, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Staff

Thomas F. Breden, *Executive Director*

Beverly Mazzella, *Real Estate Coordinator*

Martin Rapp, *Ecologist*

Martha Windisch, *Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator*

Alyssa Pearlman Wolfe, *Counsel*

The Trust accepts gifts, legacies, bequests, and endowments of land and/or funds for use in accordance with the Trust's purpose. 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, call 609-984-1339.

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

The Handbook of Landowner's Options—A Guide to Land Protection in New Jersey published by The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey and The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust is available on the World Wide Web at the site of the New Jersey Environmental Digital Library.

The link to the document is <http://njedl.rutgers.edu/ftp/PDFs/2116.pdf>.

To receive hard copy(s) of this document (the first copy is free, additional copies are \$1 each), contact the Trust at 609-984-1339 or email NatLands@dep.state.nj.us



The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust

CN 404

Trenton, NJ 08625-0404



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