



# **New Jersey Natural Lands Trust**



## **2005 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 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 information designed to convey a conservation ethic for the protection of open space and its natural values.



## New Jersey Natural Lands Trust contact information:

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Cover photo: Lubbers Run Preserve

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# Table Mountain Pine Restoration at the Abraitys Pine Stand Preserve

**O**n May 19, 2005, volunteers gathered at the Trust's Abraitys Pine Stand Preserve near Sergeantsville, Hunterdon County, in memory of Thomas F. Breden (1955-2003), former Executive Director of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. Fifty Table Mountain pine (*Pinus pungens*) seedlings were planted and protected from deer browse with wire cages as part of a habitat restoration effort for this state endangered tree, a project that was of special interest to Tom.

Vincent Abraitys (1915-1983), a local farmer, self-taught naturalist and botanist, discovered this grove of rare pine trees. The forested portion of the preserve contains approximately one-quarter of the Table Mountain pines within a larger Natural Heritage Priority Site. Natural Heritage Priority Sites identify some of New Jersey's best remaining habitats for rare species and ecological communities, and this site is of interest to botanists and ecologists because it is the State's only location for Table Mountain pine. The site is also the northernmost location in the range of this species, which is endemic to xeric Appalachian slopes and ridges.



*Budd and Jake, the Howell Farm oxen*

The Trust's role in the restoration and propagation of the Table Mountain pines began in 2003 with a management assignment from the DEP Green Acres Program of 29.6 acres of hayfield and forest. Martin Rapp, the Trust's Land Manager, surveyed the site and realized that the preserve's mature stand of Table Mountain pines appeared to be stressed. Further indication that this rare pine grove was stressed was a lack of Table Mountain pine seedlings at the site. Martin also noticed that the pines were mixed with and being encroached upon by hardwoods, such as sassafras, maple, ash and tulip poplar. Because studies have shown Table Mountain pine to be

shade and competition intolerant and to require site disturbance, light, and heat for successful regeneration, the Trust's Board supported techniques to regenerate the pine. These techniques included thinning selected hardwoods to provide more light for the pine's seed germination and survival, introducing prescribed burning techniques to improve seed propagation, and planting of propagated pine seedlings.



*Father and son prepare to plant pine seedlings*

*Continued*

## In 2005 . . .

**T**he New Jersey Natural Lands Trust completed 13 individual closings, bringing an additional 1,818 acres under the stewardship of the Trust. One additional closing was completed in late December, 2004, which was not included in the Trust's 2004 report. These additions make the Trust responsible for more than 21,000 acres throughout the state.

Two of the Trust's new holdings were donated directly to the Trust, 11 were transferred to the Trust for management through the State's Green Acres Program, and one was obtained with funding from the Wetlands Mitigation Acquisition Fund. The Trust's 2005 land acquisitions ranged in size from 0.29 acres to 1,208 acres, with the December, 2004, closing encompassing 274 acres.

Two new Trust preserves were established ~ **Bear Creek Preserve** in Allamuchy and Frelinghuysen Townships, Warren County, and **Gravel Hill Preserve** in Holland Township, Hunterdon County. The Trust acquired a conservation easement directly from the property owner on property now owned and managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife as its **Paulinskill River Wildlife Management Area**. Eight of the



*Papakating Creek Preserve*

2005 closings represented additions to the **Big Timber Creek, Clamming Creek, Congleton, Hagedorn, Moorestown, Papakating Creek** and **Sweet Hollow** preserves.

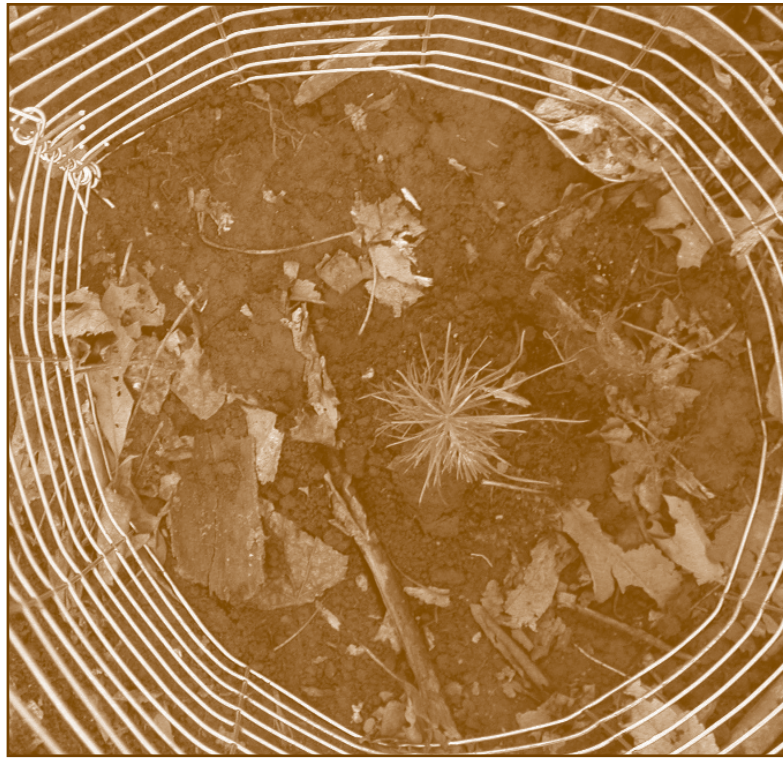
### Personnel notes:

**I**n 2005, Deputy Attorney General **Alyssa Pearlman Wolfe**, who for five years served as Counsel to the Trust, was appointed Counselor to the Commissioner of DEP. In May, 2005, the Trust welcomed Deputy Attorney General **Jane Engel** as the new Trust Counsel.



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Prior to the May, 2005, planting of the pine seedlings, Table Mountain pine cones were collected from the site and their seeds planted and grown for over a year at the State Forest Service's New Jersey Forest Tree Nursery. The site's habitat had to be prepared further by removing the encroaching hardwoods. On January 28 and 29, 2005, the Trust, in coordination with professional loggers from Pipersville, Pa., and draft horse and oxen teams from the Mercer County Park Commission's Howell Living History Farm, removed eight to ten of the largest hardwood trees shading the Table Mountain pine restoration area. Loggers Harry Bohlman, of 4-H Timber Management, Inc., and Marc Machini, of Timber Hoof Forest Management, skillfully laid down the large hardwoods to make hauling for the draft animals as easy as possible and to minimize disturbance to the forest habitat. The hardwoods were cut into a total of 45 logs, ranging from eight to 16 feet in



*A newly planted seedling, protected from deer by wire caging*

length, and were skidded out of the woods by horses or oxen on a foot of newly fallen snow. Thanks to the Pipersville foresters and Howell Living History Farm, this pioneer style of logging has been kept alive and can still be used to reduce logging impacts to the area surrounding the Table Mountain pine trees. Besides the benefit that removing these large hardwoods will have on the Table Mountain pine, the cut logs were put to good use in the construction of a barn as part of Howell Farm's new visitors center.



*Tom Breden's mother and brother were volunteer planters*

Following additional propagation of seed by the New Jersey Forest Tree Nursery, Trust staff plans additional seedling plantings in future years. In addition, the Green Acres Program is actively pursuing acquisition of additional tracts within the Natural Heritage Priority Site that are critical to protection of this unique Trust preserve.



# Bear Creek and Gravel Hill: Two New Trust Preserves

The properties forming two new Trust preserves, Bear Creek and Gravel Hill, were obtained as Green Acres Management Assignments. The 316.5-acre Bear Creek Preserve in Allamuchy and Frelinghuysen Townships, Warren County, consists of two properties, 42.7 acres which closed in March, 2005, and 273.8 acres which closed in December, 2004. The preserve is just north of Interstate 80, bounded by Bear Creek Road, Shades of Death Road, and Southtown Road. The entire preserve falls within the Bear Creek Natural Heritage Priority Site. The 273.8-acre portion of the preserve includes examples of calcareous fen natural communities along with suitable habitat for bog turtle, long-tailed salamander, barred owl and interior forest nesting birds. Over half of the property consists of wetlands, including forested wetlands and emergent wetlands. Both Bear Creek and Trout Brook flow through the property. The

remainder of the property is agricultural fields currently leased to a farmer. The 42.7-acre portion of the preserve is a steep-terrained forested property with limestone outcrops along Southtown Road, purchased from Frelinghuysen Township, which obtained it through tax foreclosure.

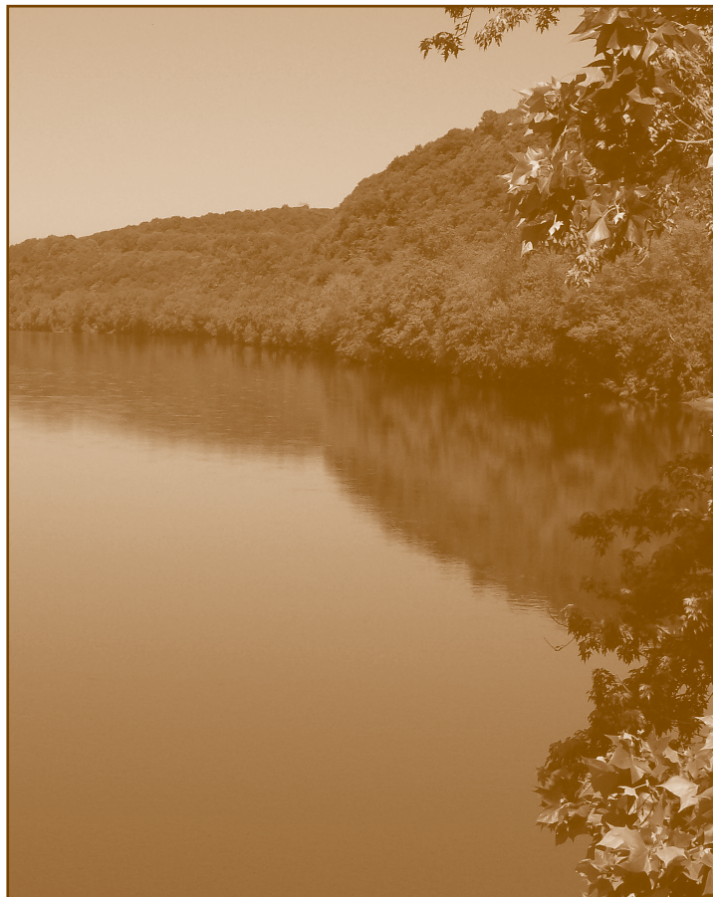


Thomas G. Barnes photo, University of Kentucky

*Wild comfrey*

The Gravel Hill Preserve was formed when the Trust acquired as management assignments two small properties totaling 16.4 acres within the

Trust's Gravel Hill Project Area in Holland Township, Hunterdon County. Project areas are formed by the Trust to facilitate land acquisitions within ecologically sensitive areas and other areas of interest. Wild comfrey, a rare plant, is documented from this area. Other rare species, including long-tailed salamander, might be found here as well. The Project Area's open farmland includes large enough blocks to support grassland birds. Furthermore, its forested areas in all likelihood support neo-tropical migratory birds as well as forest interior nesting birds and raptors. The Project Area is adjacent to the shale bluffs along the Delaware River, a portion of which can be seen at the Thomas F. Breden Preserve at Milford Bluffs. Although located not far from the bluffs, this "Gravel Hill" area has a mixture of gravel stones comprising its geologic bedrock, which is very different from the red shale of Milford Bluffs.



*Gravel Hill Preserve, on the Delaware River*



*"Peregrine Falcon"*



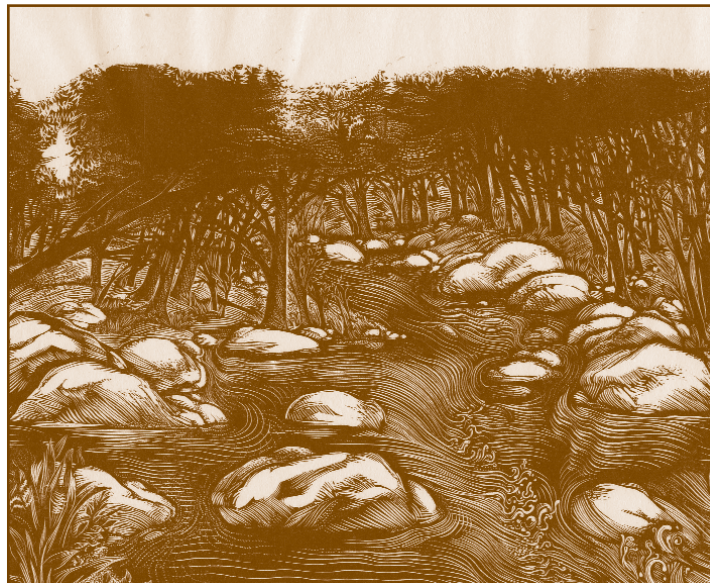
*"Gentian"*

## 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." Stefan Martin died in a fishing accident in 1994. A fellow artist noted at the time 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," 131 "Morning Stream," and 20 "Gentian" prints.

To order, contact the Trust at 609-984-1339 or email [NatLands@dep.state.nj.us](mailto: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.



*"Morning Stream"*



# Three Cheers for Volunteers!!!

**T**he Trust would like to acknowledge and thank its many volunteers for their invaluable contributions to the maintenance of Trust preserves. Special thanks are due to volunteers who have been monitoring Trust preserves for three, four, and five or more years, and to volunteers who have attended preserve cleanups on an annual basis. It takes a lot of commitment and discipline to keep a watchful eye on a piece of property over time, especially since volunteer monitoring is pretty much a self-motivated endeavor. It also takes dedication to attend a preserve workday and pick up what appears to be the same trash, year after year.

In 2005, Trust volunteers as a group put in more hours than ever before, donating a total of



*Clearing out and cleaning up at Game Branch Preserve*

2,010 hours. This is 675 more hours than volunteers contributed in 2004. And this effort shows in the appearance of our preserves. Trust preserves, on the average, look cleaner than ever before. Although managing and monitoring over 20,000 acres is a daunting task for Trust staff, the success of our volunteers makes it seem considerably more achievable.

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*Neighbors lend a hand to roll tires out of Game Branch*



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During 2005, 1,110 volunteer hours were contributed by Trust preserve monitors, who keep an eye on and pick up bag after bag of litter at 57 preserves. Nine hundred volunteer hours were contributed by volunteers involved in preserve workdays and other management projects, such as sign painting and preparing hunter I.D. buttons. The workdays held in 2005 included cleanups at the following preserves:

- **Game Branch Preserve** ~ On May 21, 2005, a workday was attended by many neighbors, local hunters, and Oldmans Township personnel.
- **Crossley Preserve** ~ On June 4, 2005, a workday was attended by volunteer monitors, neighbors, the South Jersey Geocachers, the Jamesburg Field and Stream Hunting Club and other hunters, and Berkeley Township personnel.
- **Hamilton Preserve** ~ Several workdays were held by New Jersey Community Water Watch

and attended by Richard Stockton College of New Jersey students, neighbors, local hunters, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, and Hamilton Township personnel.

- **Lubbers Run Preserve** ~ Several cleanups were performed by the Byram Township Intermediate School Environmental Club.

- **Taylor Wildlife Preserve** ~ Several workdays were held by the Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve.

- **Tiltons Creek Preserve** ~ On April 16, 2005, a workday was sponsored by the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation.

*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](mailto:NatLands@dep.state.nj.us)*



*Monitors from Byram Township Intermediate School Environmental Club, at Lubbers Run Preserve*



## **Individuals who Contributed 10 or More Hours of Volunteer Service to the NJ Natural Lands Trust in 2005:**

John Borum	Richard Hrynowski
Jessica Bouchard	Vince Kugler
Marian Brovero	Andrew Lewis
Bob Campana	Peter Longo
Alex Delters	Sean and Sue Mayer
Scott Dilts	Marshall Nelson
Joseph Dolci	Thomas O'Brien
Lance Erwin	Rocco Passerini
David Gabriel	Thomas Ryan
Kris Gordon	Prachee Satpute
Jill Halkin	Kelly Sumrall
Bill Hall	Elaine Young



## **Volunteer Groups Recognized for their Service at Trust Preserves**

Byram Township Intermediate School Environmental Club  
Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve  
Jamesburg Field and Stream Hunting Club  
New Jersey Community Water Watch  
South Jersey Geocachers  
The Children's Home, Mt. Holly

# Water Watch, Hamilton, and the Sportsmen Do It Again!

by Casey Romanick, NJ Community Water Watch

**O**n Saturday, April 2, 2005, 50 people came together at Gravelly Run to help clean up about 35 acres of newly acquired State open space lands at the Trust's Hamilton Preserve. The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust had recently obtained a number of properties near the intersection of Somers Point-Mays Landing Road and Ocean Heights Avenue, along with years of trash and garbage thrown and dumped on the properties.

Led by the NJ Community Water Watch of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and with vital support from the Township of Hamilton Road Department and the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, tons of tires, bulky waste, trash, bottles and cans were hauled out of the ponds, wetlands, and woods and removed from the property. Hamilton Police Chief Jay McKeen kicked off the rainy and windy cleanup by offering his continued commitment for the Hamilton Police to remain vigilant at enforcing no dumping ordinances in the Township.

Chief McKeen commented that while signifi-

cantly decreased illegal dumping in recent years is a positive trend, illegal dumping and littering is still a problem that needs to be addressed. He pointed out that having public concern and active stewardship for both public and private lands is very important in discouraging illegal dumping and encouraging active enforcement.

This is the second year that NJ Community Water Watch has organized a large cleanup of public land in Hamilton. This is also the second year that the big yellow loader and trucks and the ambitious crew from the Hamilton Road Department were hard at work cleaning public property early on a Saturday. It is hard work pulling trash and debris out of the woods and collecting it, and hauling it away and properly disposing of it.

The combination of many volunteers combing the woods, supported by the Hamilton Road Department to dispose of what they bring out, makes an outstanding team for removing large quantities of trash from public lands in Hamilton. In addition to the volunteer students from

Stockton College, local sportsmen and residents were out in force as an active part of this cleanup team.

The beauty and pristine character of Gravelly Run as it flows through this newly acquired and ecologically sensitive public open space is a pleasure to see. This example of stewardship and human investment in our natural resources is an inspiration for those of us who love the natural character of our watershed communities.



*The volunteers who turned out to clean woods, wetlands and ponds*



# Trust News Bulletin

• In April, 2005, the New Jersey Geological Survey repaired the parking lot at the Trust's **Thomas F. Breden Preserve at Milford Bluffs** in Holland Township, Hunterdon County. NJGS delivered and spread a load of gravel, making it easier for several cars to park. Alex Delters, a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout rank, has made additional improvements to this preserve gateway area. He added new signage, several new gates, and improved the parking area access trail drainage.

• On May 5, 2005, the Liberty Township Environmental Commission and the Mountain Lake Community Association sponsored an environmental restoration of a wetland area adjacent to Mountain Lake Brook at the Trust's **Mountain**

**Lake Bog Preserve** in Liberty and White Townships, Warren County. The restoration was funded by a grant from the New Jersey Natural Resource Conservation and Development Program. Volunteers from the environmental commission, the community association, and the Phillipsburg area New Jersey Youth Corps removed an old fence that had become an eyesore, cleaned up three dump truck loads of scrap metal, and filled three 30-cubic yard dumpsters with trash and debris. Many positive comments came from community residents regarding the beautification of the area after the cleanup. The cleanup will also serve to protect the brook and bog from non-point source pollution that would have continued to emanate from the debris.

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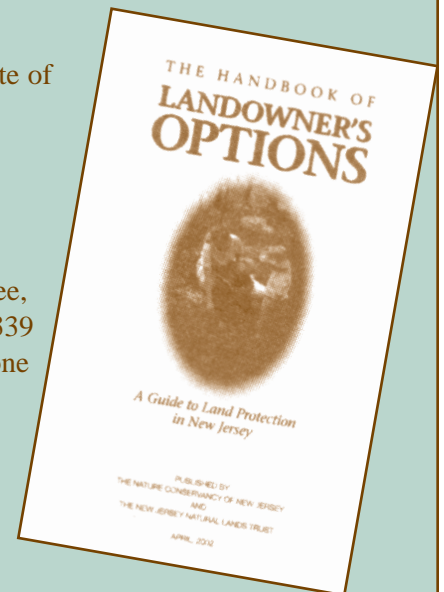
## The Handbook of Landowner's Options ~ A Guide to Land Protection in New Jersey

**L**and in New Jersey is in demand more than ever before. Realizing that much of the effort to preserve land must come from the private sector, the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey published *The Handbook of Landowner's Options – A Guide to Land Protection in New Jersey*. The handbook describes the options available to landowners who wish to preserve the natural attributes of their property. It illustrates how property owners can work together with private, nonprofit conservation organizations and government agencies to preserve open space through a variety of methods tailored to their individual needs.

The Handbook 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 a hard copy 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](mailto:NatLands@dep.state.nj.us). If requesting more than one copy, make your check payable to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and send your request, including the name and address to which the handbooks are to be sent, to the NJ Natural Lands Trust, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625.





*Family of Tom Hampton, former Executive Director of the Trust*

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- On June 2, 2005, the Trust completed a warm season grassland restoration project at the **Taylor Wildlife Preserve** in Cinnaminson Township, Burlington County. Working through a grant from the Delaware Estuary Program and partnering with the New Jersey American Water Company and the Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve, volunteers seeded a mixture of warm season native grasses on a three-acre field. The planting is intended to provide desired food and cover for wildlife and birds at the preserve. A second phase of the project is being planned to include improvements to hiking trails and a public access area.

- On November 18, 2005, Trust staff invited the Thomas F. Hampton family to the **Hampton**

**Pines Preserve** in Lakewood Township, Ocean County, for the installation of a large wooden preserve sign in memory of Tom. The sign was painted by several student volunteers from West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional High School. Tom Hampton was Executive Director of the Natural Lands Trust from 1983 to 2001, and was a resident of Lakewood Township.

- On a snow-covered December 4, 2005, the Middlesex Greenway Coalition lead an ECO-TOUR at the Edith Stevens Memorial Wildlife Preserve (the Trust's Stevens Easement). This was the 10th anniversary of the Edison ECO-TOURS, designed to highlight the beauty of Edison's remaining natural areas. The Stevens Preserve hike is an old ECO-TOUR favorite – especially for a hike in the snow.



## 2005 List of Donors

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust gratefully extends its thanks to those who have donated land, funds, or services to the Trust in 2005 to help preserve and protect New Jersey's natural heritage.

### **Berkeley Township, Ocean County**

**Harry Bohlman, 4-H Timber Management, Inc.**

**David Devisscher**

**Goffco Industries, Inc.**

**Howell Living History Farm, Mercer County Park Commission**

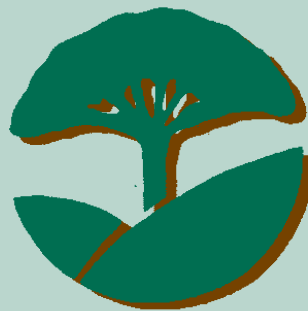
**Marc Machini, Timber Hoof Forest Management**

### **Hamilton Township, Atlantic County**

**Oldmans Township, Salem County**

**Ann K. Schramm**

**Kelly Wadsworth**



The Trust accepts gifts, legacies, bequests, and endowments of land and/or funds for use in accordance with the Trust's mission.

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

or visit the Trust's website

at [www.njnltr.org](http://www.njnltr.org)

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

# The New Jersey NATURAL LANDS TRUST

## Board of Trustees

An 11-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.

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**Leigh Rae**, Vice Chairperson  
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New Jersey Field Office

**Theresa Lettman**, Secretary/Treasurer  
Pinelands Preservation Alliance

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

**John Flynn**  
Administrator, Green Acres Program,  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Thomas Gilmore**  
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