

State of New Jersey

NATURAL LANDS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 1986

This 1987 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Senator Walter E. Foran (R., Flemington), an honored and most effective member of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust Board of Trustees. Governor Kean appointed "Moose" Foran to the NLT Board of Trustees in 1985 to represent the State House Commission. As a state legislator in continuous service since 1969, "Moose" was much admired and respected. He was minority budget officer and senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee at the time of his death in December 1986.

"Moose" once said that he thoroughly enjoyed his association with the Trust because it is an action-oriented agency. For our part, we owe a great debt to the Senator because of the strides we were able to take as a result of his legislative accomplishments on behalf of the Trust, and because of the support and enthusiasm he brought to this unusual state agency. We are the better for having worked with him, and his loss is deeply felt, personally as well as professionally, by each of us associated with the Trust.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

December, 1986

The Trust, in 1986, typified the natural progression of a maturing organization, concentrating on operations and development programs initiated in the preceding year. The focus of 1985 was to identify the specific niche for the Trust which will make the best use of its talents and its unique organization, both to enhance New Jersey's natural environment and to complement the land trust community. It followed that the emphasis of this past year would be on developing the means by which the Trust would proceed to accomplish these objectives. Much time and effort have been invested in framing policy for the acceptance of additional types of properties that fall outside traditional preserve criteria, detailing the operation of the Preservation Cooperative (the Trust's volunteer-based preserve management program), and assisting in the planning and organization of the Delaware Bay Shorebird Program.

The Trust has broadened its acquisition criteria to include two additional types of properties: mitigation lands and project areas. There are two types of mitigation properties that result from regulatory action taken by the state to offset habitat destruction: artificially created habitat, and compensation properties to protect like habitat. We are focusing on long-term acquisition projects based on solicitations for donations of critical habitat within a designated area. Artificially created habitats and individual parcels within a project area, serving open space and habitat needs now and in the future, will not be excluded from protection under our broadened acquisition criteria.

Great strides have been made in establishing the details of the Trust's management operations. In fact, the program is now complete with work plans, orientation agenda, and a long list of eager volunteers. Due to its inability to obtain liability insurance, the Trust had to halt the program in May of 1986 as volunteers were readied for orientation. In the interim, Trust staff have been responding to minor management problems as they arise, and have been mapping, posting and maintaining its 21 properties.

The Trust is anxious to resume this most important volunteer program. We anticipate solving the insurance problem through legislative action. Insurance bills are currently being reviewed by Senate and Assembly Committees that would allow the Trust to petition the State Treasurer for liability coverage.

We are better prepared for these new challenges because of the passage, in 1986, of two Trust bills sponsored by Senator Walter Foran. Our ability to function effectively was enhanced by the clarification of our enabling legislation, and by a supplemental appropriation which allowed us to hire our own personnel to assist in land acquisition and management.

I would like to extend special thanks to our distinguished board members and officers for the sound advice and dedicated service they have provided throughout the year. They receive no compensation other than pride in a job well done, and satisfaction in the tangible evidence of a better New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward F. Babbott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Edward F. Babbott
Chairman

THE TRUST — BACKGROUND



The endangered Pine Barrens treefrog inhabits several southern preserves.

While New Jersey is the most heavily urbanized and densely settled state in the nation, it also can take pride in a varied and diverse natural environment. Beyond the Turnpike and the industrial centers are beautiful expanses of coastal wetlands and dunes, inland swamps and mountain streams, lakes and meadows and woodlands, barrier islands and sandy pine barrens. Humankind shares the state with a rich diversity of plants, animals and other wildlife that includes many rare and endangered species.

The preservation of open space for passive recreation, for its unusual natural features or as habitat for rare plant and animal life is necessary for maintaining New Jersey's natural heritage. As the state continues to develop, opportunities to acquire land, especially large tracts of natural land, are declining; the need for their protection is becoming more immediate.

Since the inauguration of the Green Acres Program in 1961, the State has been able to purchase land at fair market value for recreation, wildlife management, parks, forests and natural preservation, using funds approved by voters through five bond issues. Such state funding is limited, however, and will not be available to purchase all the land that is needed to maintain a healthful balance with nature. The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was born of the realization that new avenues of acquisition need to be opened.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Trust is to preserve land in its natural state and to protect natural diversity for the present and future enjoyment of the people of New Jersey.

OUR UNIQUENESS

The Trust holds a special place among conservation organizations: as an element of state government, we are able to offer assurance of permanence, but we operate autonomously and can act quickly and independently to respond to preservation needs as they arise. Free from excessive bureaucratic responsibilities and regulations, we can negotiate with a landowner, just like any trust, to take advantage of new preservation and protection opportunities.

With an appropriation from the State, which allows for a small operating budget and salaries for one full-time and one part-time staff, and an Executive Director provided by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Trust's activities are guided by an eleven-member Board of Trustees. Six members are appointed by the Governor from recommendations of a nominating caucus of conservation organizations; the remaining five members are State officials.

Through board representation of private citizens and State government, the Trust gains innovative ideas, vital contacts and important information, creating an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competition between public and private interests. Because of our status as a part of State government, we are exempt from condemnation, meaning that neither the State nor the Federal government (without a special legislative act), nor county or municipal government may take the Trust's land or interfere with its use as open space and wildlife habitat. Thus, a donation of land to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust is a gift of natural heritage offered for future generations with the greatest assurance of continued preservation that can be provided.

APPLYING OUR UNIQUENESS

Project Areas

Within its criteria for land acquisition, the Trust may choose to accept a small, seemingly unimportant property with the intention of soliciting additional donations of adjacent land that would help to protect a larger, more significant habitat. The determination of acceptability is the responsibility of the Board. In making its determination, the Board considers the evidence of its value as habitat, and the ease or difficulty of obtaining the remaining land within the project area. One such approved project area is the Moorestown Project, in which several donations to the Trust of both wetlands and uplands are working to protect a precious green area in that region.

Mitigation

As a result of the DEP's regulation of sensitive habitats, certain tracts of land have been reserved as permanent open space. Often, these properties have lacked a "home" within the state structure: an office or agency to oversee the land. These lands may be either manipulated or created habitats, or compensation properties (a property similar to one that has been destroyed) acquired and protected in perpetuity as a form of mitigation.

Mitigation may also come in the form of funds to be applied toward the acquisition and management of important habitat. This was the case with the Delaware Bay Shorebird Project in which Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE & G), to offset wetlands destruction, provided monies for wetlands restoration as well as for the shorebird program. This funding will make possible the acquisition and management of an eight-to-ten mile stretch of the Delaware Bay shore—prime feeding and nesting habitat for many species of shorebirds.

The goal of the Trust is to preserve natural diversity. If this can be accomplished through mitigation by created habitat or compensation, or the application of mitigation funding, then it is appropriate for the Trust, as a state agency, to act as a recipient and caretaker of such lands or monies. The Trust can serve as a link between government and the public to provide a degree of creativity, flexibility and coordination that might not otherwise be possible.

Acceptance of a mitigation or compensation proposal is not a statement of support by the Trust for projects or processes which, while making such mitigation possible and necessary, may result in the destruction of natural diversity. The role of the Trust is not to decide whether destruction of habitat should be permitted or what type of mitigation is appropriate. Generally, regulatory agencies have the responsibility to weigh the benefits of a proposed project and to determine the mitigation necessary, using the legal mandates of adopted rules or regulations. Our function is to protect or conserve what is within our power or reach to protect or conserve.

Mitigation Guidelines

The following are conditions under which the Trust chooses to accept mitigation properties or funds:

Mitigation and compensation proposals should be consistent with types of habitats acquired by the Trust.

Habitats created or restored should replicate near-natural conditions using the best available technology.

The Trust will not assume maintenance of created or restored habitat unless an endowment for management is provided or special exception is made by the Trustees.

All lands acquired by the Trust as the result of mitigation or compensation will be preserved, in perpetuity, as open space.

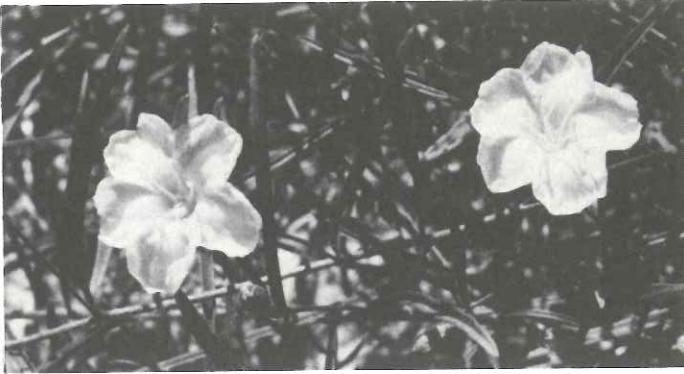
Lands and monies acquired by the Trust as the result of mitigation or compensation will be managed at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees, subject to any conditions of deed, endowment or agreement.

Mitigation and compensation proposals may be accepted by the Trust under specific conditions as approved by the Board of Trustees.

To avoid potential conflicts between conditions acceptable to the Board and those imposed by regulatory agencies, the Trust prefers that agencies discuss proposed conditions with the Trustees prior to finalization.

Absent special conditions of the donor, compensation funds will be established as an endowment for the acquisition or maintenance of similar habitat.

LANDHOLDINGS



Globally rare Pickering's morning glory protected at the Crossley Preserve.

Since its founding in 1968, the Natural Lands Trust has acquired donations of land totalling 1649 acres and valued in excess of three million dollars. In 1986 alone, eighteen parcels of 291 acres were acquired, extending the Trust's responsibilities over acreage in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Ocean, Sussex and Warren counties. The Trust has acquired most of its properties through fee simple donation; two properties, Taylor and Highfields, are donated easements.

The Trust, though negotiating on certain mitigation properties, has not yet acquired one. However, 1986 was the first year that the Trust identified and began acquisition of project areas. This year, four project areas were initiated. In addition to this new type of acquisition, the Trust pursued the traditional avenue of preserve acquisition. A preserve is an area of land owned in fee or easement and protected from development and managed in perpetuity for its natural resources. The types of land acquired as Natural Lands Trust preserves fall into the following environmental categories:

Threatened Species Habitat: confirmed habitat for plant or wildlife species recognized as threatened or endangered or suitable but unconfirmed habitat for such species;

Unusual Ecosystems: habitats, communities, geologic features, or ecosystems represented by fewer than five similar occurrences in the state;

Representative Ecosystems: aquifer recharge areas, headwater areas, floodplains or wetlands along rivers, streams, lakes or ponds, or areas of distinct community types that once typified the state's natural environment and whose numbers are now diminishing, or areas that support a high diversity of plant, wildlife, or natural communities, or areas that do not support a high diversity of species or communities but may be appropriate for passive use by the public and for which future management costs would be minimal.

Hamilton Preserve

Donated in fee in 1985, the 300-acre Hamilton Preserve in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County, consists of pine/oak uplands and low wet areas. A mature cedar stand borders the northern extent of the property along a tributary of Gravelly Run, and a number of trails meander through the preserve. The land was originally slated for a major subdivision into 25' x 100' lots, prior to donation to the Trust.

Lin-Lee Preserve

Located just west of the town center of Barnegat in rapidly developing Barnegat Township, Ocean County, are sixty acres of mixed pinelands habitat donated in fee in 1985 by Lin-Lee Associates, a business partnership. The site is mostly wooded uplands and is bisected by a creek that has pockets of wetlands along its course. The preservation of this land will provide one of the few preserved open spaces in what the community land-use plan shows as a densely developed area.

Lazarus Preserve

Thirty acres of pinelands mixed habitat in Stafford Township, Ocean County, was donated in fee by John D. Lazarus in 1985. The property contains both uplands and wetlands. The acreage is traversed by two streams — Cedar Run and Stocum's Branch — and is bordered by two sand roads.

Readington Preserve

The Trust preserves and protects this thirty-six acre site in Readington Township, Hunterdon County. Received in 1968, it encompasses a diversity of habitats including 600 feet of frontage along Rockaway Creek, floodplain, open fields and dense woods of eastern white pine, red maple, red cedar, oak, black walnut and black gum.

Crooked Swamp Caves Preserve

The Crooked Swamp Caves Preserve consists of eighteen acres in Lafayette Township, Sussex County, and was donated in fee simple to the Trust in 1978. The preserve, characterized by rolling farmland and wooded hills, overlooks a Township-owned and protected great blue heron rookery.

The subterranean limestone ridge formation contains eight caves, creating a cave network of 1,250 feet — the longest in the state. The New Jersey Cave Management Committee manages the caves and controls access to their two entrances.

Reinhardt Preserve

The Reinhardt Preserve comprises 240 acres in Montague Township, Sussex County, and adjoins High Point State Park. Acquired by the Nearpass family in the early 1800s, this property was a major limestone quarry for many years. Two limestone kilns still exist on the preserve. The property was inherited by Goyne Reinhardt, the sole heir, who, in 1973, donated the property to the Trust in fee for the perpetual preservation of the forest, waters and wildlife. The Reinhardt Preserve is made up of several habitat regimes (ridge, marsh, wooded swamp, old field, hemlock glen and northern hardwood forest), providing for a diversity of wildlife.

Frye Preserve

Three parcels totalling 187 acres in Middle Township, Cape May County, make up the Frye property. Donated in fee simple to the Trust in 1975, the preserve consists of approximately half tidal wetlands, crossed by the south branch of Wills Creek, and half pine/oak forest with intermittent freshwater wetlands. Although the majority of this significant habitat falls within the Frye Preserve, there are still very important tidal wetland areas and creek frontage adjacent to the preserve which the Trust wishes to protect.

Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve

This two-parcel property of twenty-one acres in Blairstown Township, Warren County, was donated to the Trust in 1974 and is title-restricted with a life estate. Improvements on the property include a small cottage and tennis court. Much of the area has been flooded by a beaver dam and is now marsh habitat. A steep-sloped limestone ridge encircles most of the marsh. The marsh, upland, and ridge vegetation are markedly different and provide habitat for a corresponding diversity of wildlife: muskrat, turtles, hawks, beaver, black duck, mute swans, mallards and green and blue herons are present, among many other species.

McCarthy Preserve

The McCarthy Preserve is approximately four acres bordering Lake Hopatcong in the Borough of Hopatcong, Sussex County. Donated to the Trust in 1975, it is known locally as Pilcher's Point Preserve. It abuts Eagles Nest, a local historic site.

The topography of this preserve provides a scenic vista of Lake Hopatcong and of the property's 220-foot frontage along the lake's rocky shoreline. Hardwood forest prevails on the steep rock slopes, with species that include chestnut, and scarlet and white oak. While providing access to fishermen and a small number of other passive recreationists, it is a small oasis for wildlife whose habitat was destroyed by nearby high- and medium-density residential development.

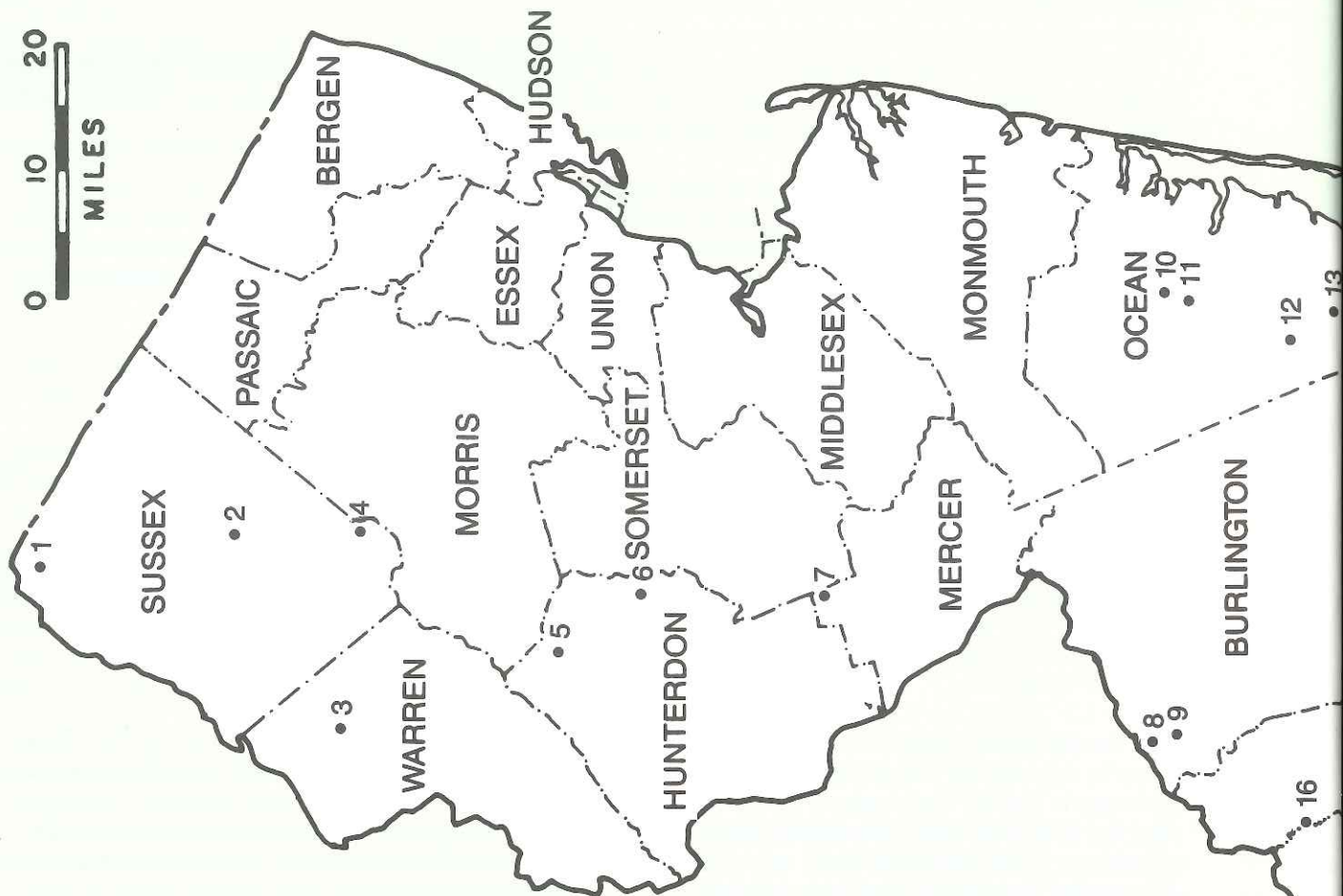
Isenburger Preserve

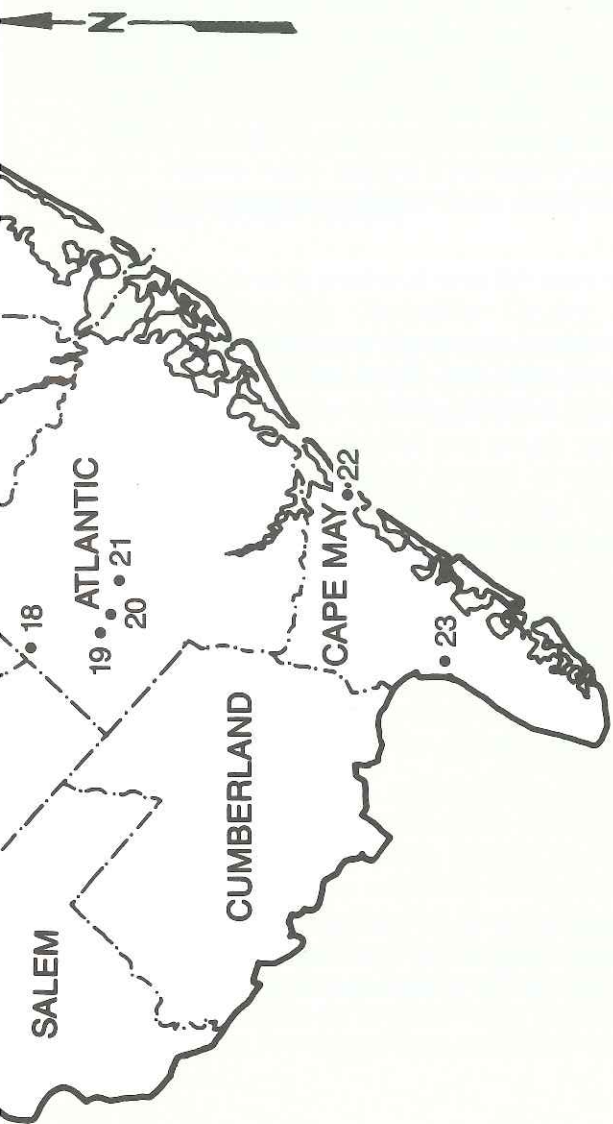
The Isenburger tract is a thirty-two-acre parcel in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, donated to the Trust in 1975 with certain deed restrictions. The land slopes up moderately to steeply to a summit in the southeastern corner of the property. Approximately eighteen acres are covered with native hardwoods, with steep and rocky sections showing white, scarlet, chestnut and swamp oak, and the lower, more level, areas characterized by black birch and red maple. The remaining fourteen acres are reforested with various conifers.

Taylor Preserve

A conservation easement, donated to the Trust in 1975, for eighty-nine acres of the Taylor property known as Riverside Homestead Farm, is located in the Township of Cinnaminson, Burlington County. The property borders the Delaware River and is nearly level, ranging in elevation from ten to twenty feet. Characterized by wetlands, swamp, river, floodplain and meadow habitats, it supports a wide variety of plant and animal life, including obligate wetlands vegetation as well as sweet gum, red maple, pine, oak, tuliptree, sycamore and willow oak.

General agriculture, including livestock raising, is practiced on the adjoining lands, while the easement property 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.





STATE OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST LANDHOLDINGS

1. Reinhardt Preserve
2. Crooked Swamp Caves Preserve
3. Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve
4. McCarthy Preserve
5. Isenburger Preserve
6. Readington Preserve
7. Highlands Preserve
8. Taylor Preserve
9. Morrestown Project Area
10. Crossley Preserve
11. Hawley Project Area
12. Barnegat Preserve
13. Lin-Lee Preserve
14. Lazarus Preserve
15. Kislow Preserve
16. 41 Associates Preserve
17. Katz & Esposito — Monroe Preserve
18. Katz & Esposito — Folsom Preserve
19. Costa Project Areas
20. Danenhauer Preserve
21. Hamilton Preserve
22. Ocean City Project Area
23. Frye Preserve

Crossley Preserve

In 1984 the Trust received from Amoco Minerals Company a fee simple donation of 251 acres of land in Berkeley and Manchester townships, Ocean County. The donation is valued for its Pine Barrens landscape and endangered species habitats. Special features include pine/oak forest, abandoned cranberry bogs, clay pits, spoil mounds and sand trails. One sand trail that was once a railroad right-of-way supports populations of the northern pine snake, corn snake and timber rattler. Threatened plant species identified on the property include Barratt's sedge, New Jersey rush, Pickering's morning glory, Torrey's muhly, Pine Barren reed grass, and Knieskern's beaked-rush.

Barnegat Preserve

Two adjacent parcels, donated in fee simple by the Gerkens and by the General Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey, were accepted by the Trust in 1984. The two parcels totalling approximately eighty-eight acres and located in Barnegat Township, Ocean County, border land owned by the Township and the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. Located within the Pinelands forest zone, approximately half of the property is upland forest dominated by pine species; the remaining portion contains pine and shrub lowlands and wetlands. A confirmed threatened-species habitat, the site includes the headwaters of the east branch of the Wading River.

Kislow Preserve

The Kislow property, consisting of two acres in Stafford Township, Ocean County, was 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. Composed primarily of wetlands vegetation, it borders the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

Costa Project Areas

In 1986, Maria Costa donated two parcels of land located in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County. Each consists of five acres of pitch pine/oak upland forest lying within the Pinelands Protection Area. Both sites extend an excellent wildlife habitat provided by the great expanse of undeveloped woodlands surrounding the properties.

Danenhauer Preserve

South of Lake Lenape and along the Great Egg Harbor River in Weymouth and Hamilton townships, Atlantic County, lies the Danenhauer Preserve, donated in fee simple to the Trust in 1986. This 10.88-acre property consists of an undisturbed freshwater swamp surrounded by a swamp hardwood forest and drier areas of pitch pine forest. The Danenhauer Preserve provides significant wildlife habitat for a variety of animal species found in the swamps of southern New Jersey.

41 Associates Preserve

This 12.08-acre preserve was donated in fee to the Trust in 1986 by 41 Associates Inc. Located in Deptford Township, Gloucester County, along N.J. route 41, the property is mostly freshwater marsh, bordered in part by mixed hardwood forest uplands. Big Timber Creek forms the north and east borders of the tract. The donation resulted from a commercial development project and provides an oasis for wildlife within an area of intensive development.

Hawley Project Area

The Hawley tract is a small parcel of land located in the Bamber Lake section of Lacey Township, Ocean County. It was donated to the Trust in 1986 and consists of an upland pitch-pine/scrub-oak forest community within the Pinelands Protection Area. Nearby natural areas include Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area and Double Trouble State Park.

Highfields Preserve

In 1986, a 180-acre conservation easement was granted by the New Jersey Department of Corrections to the Natural Lands Trust for the Hopewell Township (Mercer County) portion of the Charles A. Lindbergh estate. Known as Highfields, the 320-acre property bordering two townships and two counties was originally donated to the state for the benefit of children; since then, the East Amwell Township (Hunterdon County) portion has served as a juvenile detention facility. In keeping with Lindbergh's wish to benefit children, the easement states that the Trust will include the resident youths in a program to build and maintain trails for the use of the juveniles and the public as well. Not only is the preserve historically significant, but also it superbly represents the mixed hardwood forest regime in the piedmont section of the state.

Howell Property

This eight-acre parcel, donated in 1986, directly adjoins the southern boundary of the Trust's Frye Preserve in Middle Township, Cape May County. It is an excellent example of undisturbed tidal wetlands along with a small portion of upland forest. The Howell property, which is now united with the Frye Preserve, provides additional wetlands and increased frontage along the South Branch of Wills Creek.

Katz & Esposito Preserves

Twenty acres in Folsom Borough, Atlantic County, and forty-nine acres in Monroe Township, Gloucester County, were donated in fee by Harry Katz and Joseph Esposito in 1986. The Folsom site consists of an upland pine/oak forest with a network of sand roads and small trails. The Monroe site contains upland pine/oak forests with freshwater wetlands associated with the Hancock Branch and Hospitality Branch of the Great Egg Harbor River.

Moorestown Project Area

In Moorestown Township, Burlington County, and located within the boundaries of N.J. route 38, Main Street, Marter Ave. and Mt. Laurel Road, are approximately 170 acres of forested freshwater wetlands, perched wetlands and a mixed hardwood forest. The tract, once subdivided into small lots which are now in individual ownership, is a valuable natural area surrounded by dense development. Because of increased pressure to develop this site, and in an effort to save the land, a Moorestown citizens group called CAREZ (Citizens Advocating Responsible and Equitable Zoning) asked the Trust to serve as a recipient organization for individual donations in this area. As a result of dedication and hard work of CAREZ, seven lots have been donated and additional acquisitions are underway.

Ocean City Project Area

A small lot located along West Avenue in Ocean City, Cape May County, was donated in fee in 1986. The property, completely vegetated with reed grass, lies directly adjacent to an extensive salt marsh. This property serves as both a buffer for and an access point to this prime wetland habitat. Acquisition efforts have been initiated for related neighboring tracts essential to the preservation and protection of the entire ecosystem.

MANAGEMENT



Goyn Reinhardt assists in the posting of the preserve that he donated.

The goal of the Trust's management program is to promote natural diversity through the preservation of varied habitats and to allow for public use and enjoyment of these areas wherever public use does not degrade the natural qualities of the site. Management Guidelines were adopted by the Trustees in 1986 to direct staff and volunteer efforts toward achieving these goals.

The Trust hired a consultant in 1986 to detail the "how-to" of the Preservation Cooperative (PC) Program, complete with program goals, objectives and guidelines; division of responsibilities between the Trust's Board, staff and volunteers; a work schedule for volunteers; and an orientation program. The use of volunteers to assist with preserve management poses a potential liability to the Trust, against which the Trust has thus far been unable to insure. The program has therefore been halted until such time as insurance is available to the Trust. The delay is unfortunate, as fifteen volunteers were readied for orientation at the Crossley and Limestone Ridge Marsh preserves and twenty-three others have applied to assist in the PC Program.

Once our insurance problems are rectified, preserve management will be undertaken by a committee of volunteers known as a Preservation Cooperative. Meanwhile, the Crooked Swamp Caves Preserve is being actively managed by the New Jersey Cave Committee, a group that carries its own insurance; and several other preserves (Kislow, Limestone Ridge Marsh, McCarthy, Taylor and Reinhardt) are managed on an informal basis by their donors or by interested individuals who act as property overseers.

Management Plans are drawn for each of the major preserves and, once approved by the Board of Trustees, serve as a policy guide for staff and for future Preservation Cooperatives. Where the Trust holds less than fee ownership of a preserve having a management plan, the plan must also be approved by the holder of the remaining interest. Where there is no management plan, all activities and uses of the preserve are subject to the approval of the holder of the remaining interest. Habitat management, as described in the plan, may consist of active or passive activities, depending on conditions of the acquisition or, in the absence of such conditions, on decisions of the Board of Trustees.

Preserve Management Guidelines

Generally, passive habitat management is preferred so that natural processes may proceed.

Generally, active habitat management may be undertaken where necessary to preserve an existing community or species, or to facilitate public use where appropriate.

The boundary of each preserve will be posted with signs indicating Trust ownership except in those cases when signs will draw public attention to areas where public use is inappropriate.

Generally, public access may be encouraged where a preserve consists of relatively large tracts, stable plant and animal communities, available or possible parking, available or possible structures or facilities.

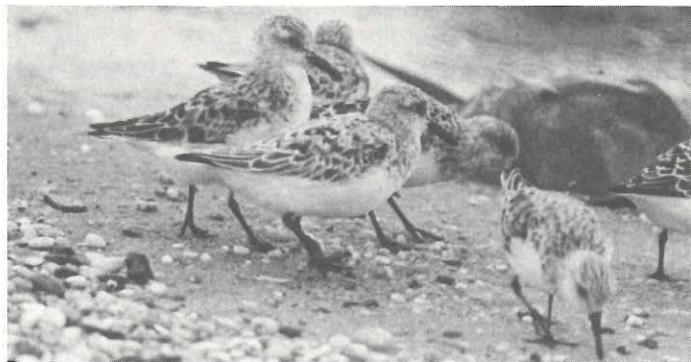
Generally, permission for public access may be required where a preserve consists of relatively small tracts, fragile or sensitive plant and animal communities, or limited accessibility.

Generally, where public access is encouraged, the following activities may be permitted: nature observation, education, research, hiking, boating, picnicking, hunting and fishing.

Where permission for public access is required, that permission is given by the Executive Director on the basis of the management plan or use policy previously approved by the Board of Trustees.

New or existing structures or improvements will be constructed or maintained only as approved by the Board of Trustees on a case-by-case basis.

DELAWARE BAY SHOREBIRD PROGRAM



Sandpipers feeding on horseshoe crab eggs at the Delaware Bay shore.

The New Jersey Delaware Bay Shorebird Program annually benefits more than one million shorebirds of four major species (Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Red Knot, Sanderling) which use the Delaware Bay littoral from April to June as a critical and strategically located feeding and resting area on their northbound migration. The lower Delaware Bay supports the second-largest spring concentration of shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere.

These birds depend upon a single food source, eggs of the horseshoe crab, to rebuild their essential energy reserves after the long flight from South American winter quarters, so that they can reach their Canadian arctic nesting grounds.

New Jersey is one of a small number of critical stopover areas in North America used by shorebirds during migration. Due to the nature and pattern of shorebird migration, the preservation of each link in this chain of resting and feeding areas is essential for their survival. Thus, the success of New Jersey's program is interwoven with management steps taken elsewhere along these routes. To ensure the continuation of the shorebird populations, these sites must be linked in a network of "reserves" currently utilized. The New Jersey program is thus not an isolated project to protect the shorebird populations along the Delaware Bay, but must be seen as part of an international program for the overall protection and management of what has been estimated at a population of over 20 million shorebirds, one of our major natural resources.

During 1986, the people working on the Shorebird Project directed their efforts toward data gathering on several fronts. Baseline studies were conducted by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and are continuing on shorebird phenology, the utilization of the Delaware Bay littoral zone, horseshoe crab egg production, and the effects of human disturbance on shorebird feeding. These baseline studies will serve to focus acquisition and management efforts in 1987. Protection will include acquisition through purchase, easement or gift of between eight and ten miles of Delaware Bay shoreline where the horseshoe crabs lay their eggs. Management will control or reduce the public harassment of the bird flocks, while providing opportunities for public observation.

A map of the Delaware Bay shore, prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, shows the utilization of the various beaches by each shorebird species and identifies those properties most important to this protection effort. Property appraisals and landowner contacting are underway, as is a public education campaign. The production and airing of the shorebird film, "The Rite of Spring," is the result of a combined effort of the New Jersey Network, Academy of Natural Sciences, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, and the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust.

Governors Kean of New Jersey and Castle of Delaware, on March 21, declared the lower 50 miles of the Delaware Bay shore the first "Sister Reserve," demonstrating the interest of the two states to protect migratory shorebirds. A dedication ceremony followed on May 21 and was attended by environmental groups, legislators, Department of Environmental Protection officials, nearby residents and many others involved with the project.

The Trust's involvement with the Delaware Bay Shorebird Program began when it accepted the responsibility to invest and administer a \$600,000 shorebird mitigation fund provided by the New Jersey Public Service Electric & Gas Company. A Shorebird Advisory Committee, which set program policy and reviewed expenditures, has passed its administrative responsibilities onto the Trust. Details of an agreement between the Trust and the DEP, though not finalized in 1986, will find the Trust taking a much more active role in the research, acquisition and coordination activities of the shorebird project.

Cooperation and coordination with many different state agencies and private conservation organizations have been and will increasingly be vital to the success of this major undertaking. With the organizational framework of the project established and refined, the Trust eagerly looks forward to implementing the acquisition, protection and management of the shorebird habitats in the coming year.

LEGISLATION

S-3165

S-3165, introduced by Senator Walter Foran (R., Flemington), was passed by the New Jersey Legislature early in 1986 and provided \$63,000 to the Trust in a supplemental appropriation. The monies are used primarily for staffing to assist in management oversight and land acquisition. It was the first major appropriation for staffing in the Trust's eighteen years of existence.

S-176

Signed by the Governor in December of 1986, Senator Walter Foran's bill S-176 brings the language of the Trust's charter up to date, and clarifies the Trust's position as an autonomous state agency, independent body but also an arm of state government.

A-2400

As an independent corporation "in but not of" the Department of Environmental Protection, the Trust is not covered by the general state insurance. During the past year, the Trust has attempted without success to obtain coverage through a private firm. Consequently the Trust has been constrained to halt its volunteer-based land management program, and cannot encourage public use of its preserves.

A-2400, introduced by Assemblymen Lovey and Haytaian, would, among other things, amend the State Tort Claims Act to allow independent public corporations like the Trust to acquire insurance coverage through the state. A-3818 and S-3012, to be introduced in 1987, are concerned strictly with providing insurance to independent public corporations. Passage of either A-2400, or both A-3818 and S-3012, would enable the Trust to resume its volunteer-based management efforts and to encourage public use of Trust lands where appropriate.

FINANCES

The Trust receives in-kind services equating to approximately \$86,000 including personnel, counsel, office and equipment. This was not included in the financial report because no funds change hands. The benefit to the Trust is real, however, and comes from the Department of Environmental Protection with the exception of counsel, which comes from the Department of Law and Public Safety.

The Trust is supported by state appropriations and not by membership dues or fees. The Trust thus spends only the smallest amount of time and energy on fundraising activities (such as the sale of nature engravings), and none at all on image-creation or advertising.

Recognizing the increasing need for the Trust to expand its preservation and management role, the state authorized a \$63,000 supplemental appropriation in January 1986, giving the Trust a total state appropriation of \$81,000 for fiscal year 1986.

The Trust administers and expends additional dedicated funds for special uses. In addition to the plant fund and management endowment, the Trust serves as fiduciary of a \$600,000 mitigation fund from Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G). The monies have been placed in an investment account, with the interest earned being reinvested with the same fund.

In July 1986, the Legislature and Governor authorized a \$90,000 budget appropriation for fiscal year 1987. With this increased annual appropriation level, the Trust is in a solid financial position.

1986 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1986 Activity

Revenues

State Appropriations		
FY '86 Supplemental Appropriation	\$63,000	
FY '87 Appropriation	90,000	
		\$153,000
Miscellaneous Income		1,240
Net General Fund Interest Income		9,424
Net Shorebird Interest Income		46,566
Land Donations		330,000
TOTAL INCOME		\$540,230

Expenses

General Operating		\$49,660
Land Acquisition		7,656
Land Management		6,670
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$63,986

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1986

Assets

Cash (Operating Funds)		\$89,805
Time Deposits		
General Fund	\$26,716	
Shorebird Fund	654,179	
		680,895
Land		3,010,000
TOTAL ASSETS		\$3,780,700

Liabilities

Dedicated Funds		
Shorebird	654,179	
		654,179
Artist Royalties		350
Non-Dedicated Funds		116,171
Land Fund		3,010,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$3,780,700

*As a State agency, the Trust's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The financial statement above is as of December 31, 1986. "Cash" reflects FY '87 appropriations, but expenditures for only the first six months.

OUTLOOK

The environment and its use by man are dynamic. What is a typical or average property today may in the future be a green oasis in an overdeveloped landscape or a critical link in a system of open space. The State of New Jersey Natural Lands Trust believes that the clear and evident value inherent in open space grows with time. The Land Preservation Bank is a concept that will become active in 1987, expanding our traditional view of "acceptable" properties and establishing criteria for acquisition of project areas and state mitigation lands.

The 1987 Tax Reform changes allowable deductions for charitable giving. The impact that this might have on donations to the Natural Lands Trust is not yet known. The Trust anticipates that it will need to assume a more active role in acquiring land, and intends to do so through the solicitation of donations to the Land Preservation Bank.

The Trust's greatest challenge in 1987 will be to find a means by which it can obtain liability insurance to permit continuing the Preservation Cooperative Program. The Trust's management program and the Land Preservation Bank are the central focus of Trust efforts in 1987.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward F. Babbott, Ed. D. (1979) — 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; Honorary Trustee, Kent Place School; member, Board of Managers, American Bible Society. 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.

Walter E. Foran (1985) — Senator (in continuous legislative service since 1969); State House Commission representative; Minority Budget Officer; senior member, Senate Appropriations Committee.

Marly Goodspeed (1983) — Hanterton County Historian; part-time farmer; Chairwoman, Delaware Township Planning Board; member; Delaware Township Environmental Commission. 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) — Administrator, Office of Natural Lands Management; member, Natural Areas Association Board of Directors. Resides in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Frank Leary (1983) — Writer and Environmental Consultant; Vice President, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions; member, Environmental Collegium. Resides in Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

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

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

Feather O'Connor (1986) — State Treasurer; former Executive Director, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency; former Senior Official, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Resides in Cranbury, New Jersey.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Edward F. Babbott, Ed.D. — Chairman
Newton LeVine — Vice Chairman
David F. Moore — Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas F. Hampton — Executive Director
George P. Cook — Counsel
Maude M. Backes — Real Estate Coordinator
Leslie DiCola — Ecologist

PHOTOGRAPHS

David B. Snyder (Cover, Page 4, Page 8)
Leslie DiCola (Page 17)
Peter McLain (Page 19)

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