

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST

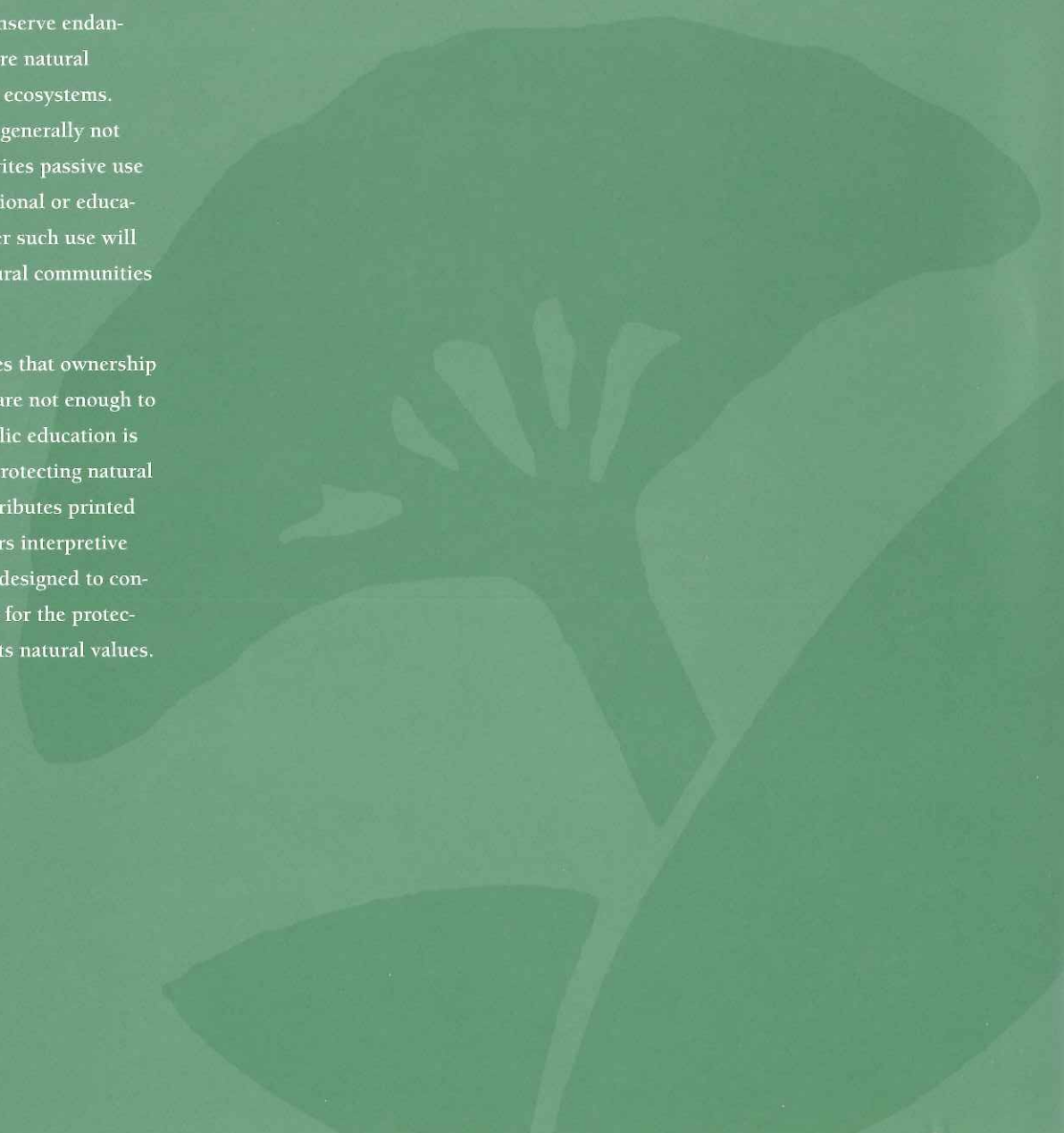
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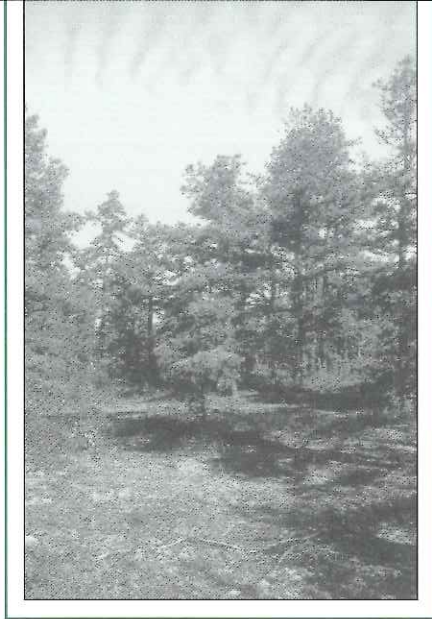
*1996 Annual Report*

## *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. Access to Trust lands is generally not restricted. 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.





## RARE SPECIES AND THE CROSSLEY PRESERVE

 Since 1984, working with various landowners and non-profit organizations, the Trust has slowly enlarged its Crossley Preserve in Ocean County, with one goal being connection of the original land donation adjacent to Holiday City, to open space managed by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, known as Whiting Wildlife Management Area. Part of the "Berkeley Triangle", this land has been recognized by botanists and herpetologists as a critical piece for protection of natural diversity. This past year, with the help of the Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program, that important link occurred through the acquisition of 715 acres from American Homes.

In the 1800's and early 1900's, the town of Crossley was the center of an active clay mining operation. The sand roads used for transport of clay located north and west of the former town still exist today, but are difficult to traverse for all but 4-wheel drive vehicles. However, the headwaters for the Michaels Branch and Wrangle Brook still slowly meander as they did at the turn of the century. These streams and wetlands with their surrounding uplands may

harbor rare plants that have yet to be recorded and most certainly provide critical foraging habitat for the rare pine and corn snake. Now, with the addition of the American Homes property, these roads and the headwater areas have become part of the 1,213 acre Crossley Preserve.

The wildlife corridor at the preserve stretches from the banks of the Davenport Branch, east of Crossley Road to Route 70, north of Crestwood Village. This uninterrupted corridor amounts to several lineal miles of habitat available for typical wildlife species, as well as endangered snakes. Natural snake dens on the property have been monitored for several years by Bob Zappalorti of Herpetological Associates. The underground dens provide wintering locations for the snakes to hibernate, while expansive pitch pine uplands and lowlands surrounding the winter homes are essential for feeding during the spring and summer months. An open canopy surrounding the dens provide habitat for the

snakes to warm themselves during the early spring months.

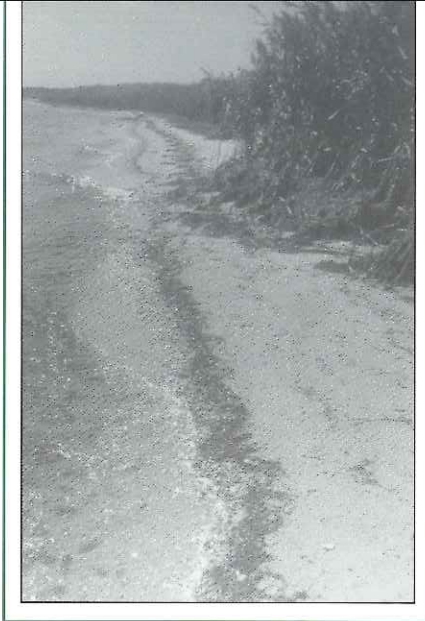
According to the Natural Heritage Database, a detailed inventory of rare species statewide, there are no records for endangered plants on the American Homes property. This is not surprising given the remoteness of the headwater wetlands from the past rail and sand roads. Botanists at the turn of the century were known to conduct surveys and record flora near heavily traveled corridors, but may not have ventured into the heavily vegetated swamps. Virtually no records for endangered plants existed for the original Crossley Preserve until the Trust contracted botanist Ted Gordon to conduct a survey of plants during the 1980's. Ted located a number of rare species including the discovery of the first county record for a federally endangered species, Pickering's morning glory. With expectations that similar treasures await other curious botanists, the Trust began more surveys of the headwaters on the recently acquired property this year, with the help of federal funding. We expect to continue these surveys in the future and expand them to adjacent areas as the Crossley Preserve continues to grow.

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PHOTO:

*Crossley-American Homes Acquisition*  
by M. Rapp





## PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTION

Protecting open space is the goal of a number of organizations in the state, including the New Jersey field office of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). As a national organization, TPL has been quite active in other states and, more recently in New Jersey, particularly in the Barnegat Bay region. After a study of undeveloped lands in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, the TPL published its Century Plan, an inventory and description of 100 areas in need of protection. The primary focus of the study was to target undeveloped lands along the Barnegat Bay and to advocate purchase and protection. TPL acquired one of these parcels, an area known as Sands Point Harbor, located at the mouth of Oyster Creek in Ocean Township, Ocean County, and donated it to the Trust this past year.

This 120-acre wetland site provides panoramic views of the bay, and Barnegat Lighthouse. Typical salt marsh grasses account for more than two-thirds of the site, while the remainder, further inland, is forested habitat. With easy public access from Bay Parkway, one can view sail boats from the beachfront, or wading birds, deer and other wildlife in the marshes to the north and south of the road. The upland and wetland forest includes pitch pine and myrtle along the edge with drainage tributaries dominated by holly, sassafras and blackgum. The uplands, found mostly towards the center of the forested area, are sandy soils, supporting oaks and maples. Because of the easy access, it is not surprising to find a number of foot paths throughout the woodlands and beach-

front, circling the edge of the forest and branching into the center of the property.


The Trust for Public Land creatively used a combination of Green Acres matching grants, the organization's own capital funds and assistance from the William Penn Foundation to purchase title to the properties and then transfer them to the Trust. John Klevins, project manager for the Century Plan, said, "We are leveraging these funds to save the most crucial natural lands in the Barnegat Bay. We are thrilled to work in partnership with the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust; they are respected statewide as careful stewards of the lands they manage." The Trust is currently working with the TPL on several other projects in various parts of the state to achieve mutual open space protection goals.

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PHOTO:  
*Tilton's Creek Preserve*  
*by M. Rapp*



## NEW PRESERVE IN SUSSEX COUNTY

 Through the generosity of Robert C. Vanderbilt, Donna Pruden Seckar, Deborah Pruden Seugling, and Douglas R. Pruden, the Trust received a donation of a new 63 acre preserve known as Lubbers Run. Named after the cold, clear waterway meandering through the middle of this parcel in Byram Township, Sussex County, the land lies adjacent to an elementary school, municipal park and recreation lands, together totaling more than 150 acres. The preserve has a varied topography of boulder strewn uplands and emergent marsh along the Lubbers Run, maintained by an active colony of beavers.

A lack of stone walls in this formerly large agricultural area of the state suggest that the forested uplands has not been the subject of logging in the recent past. A mature forest of beech, red maple and white oaks grow large and intact, except for occasional areas of massive

boulders or bedrock where thin soils have killed back trees during drought years. These natural openings in the canopy provide light where Dutchman's britches flourish. Sassafras and dogwood in the mid-story suggest a rich soil condition throughout the forest. Lush emergent wetlands occur in lower elevations over forty percent of the site where Lubbers Run flows through a wide floodplain marsh dominated by arrowhead, tussock sedge, cattail, purple iris and smartweed. Because of this habitat diversity, the area is an interesting one for diversity of wildlife and plants.

The habitat conditions for wood and bog turtle are excellent and the species are expected to be found in the wetlands adjacent to Lubbers Run. Likewise, salamanders, including spotted, slimy, and Jefferson's, may be found to use small vernal wetlands found as

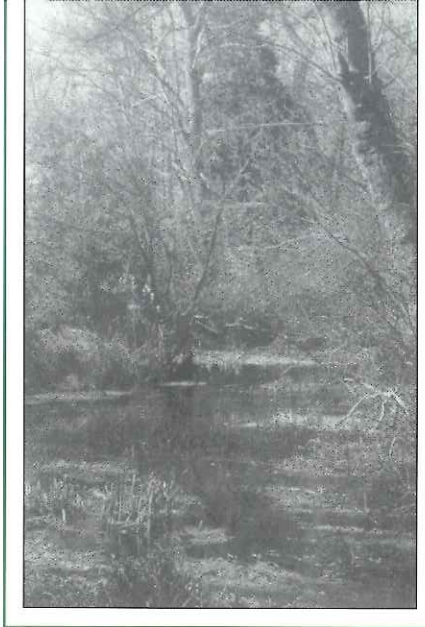
pockets in various portions of the marsh. Great blue herons have been seen feeding along Lubbers Run as beavers keep active repairing their dam. The forest community appears stable with minimal encroachment of invasive exotic plants. Turkey, squirrel, and deer are residents and black bear living in the surrounding region could visit on occasion.

With all this diversity, it is not surprising that the neighboring elementary school has been involved with outdoor study of the Lubbers Run wetlands. The Trust will continue to encourage these local stewards and we have initiated discussions with a representative of the Byram Township Environmental Commission for additional management assistance. The commission has applied for a grant to expand these studies and indicated that their assistance for future management is a distinct possibility.

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PHOTO:  
*Lubber's Run Preserve*  
by M. Rapp





## PIECES OF THE PUZZLE FIT TOGETHER

Of development, it has been said that “growth is inevitable”. It seems that this adage applies to Trust-owned properties as well. Each year, staff concentrates on acquiring lands adjacent to our preserves as a means of insuring the integrity of the habitat we currently protect and to minimize management burdens that come with increasing property acreage. Connecting two smaller pieces of property reduces the boundaries that have to be monitored or posted and increases options available for controlling unwanted uses on any of the land. Every cost saving measure becomes invaluable when faced with limited staff to oversee our properties.

Located at an intersection in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, an 8.1 acre triangular parcel, donated by Florence Walker, is bounded on the third side by Mirey Run. In addition to preventing development at an attractive intersection near our Hamilton Preserve, 1,100 feet of forested wetlands along the Run have been protected.

The Trust’s Panther Branch property in agricultural Buena Vista Township, Atlantic County, was a small 10.5 acres before a donation from Sherie & Tino

Cione and Monique & Scott Batchelder added another 12 acres to its boundaries. The entire site is bottomland hardwood forest of black gum, ash, red maple and clusters of white cedar with shallow areas of still water. Forest conditions such as this are important for wildlife in an area dominated by truck crop agriculture. Only one lot, supporting the same natural communities, remains in private ownership between the two parcels.

A 74 acre conservation easement donated by Sam Juffe, David Jaffe and Irv Cyzner provides an added buffer to the Trust’s Long-A-Coming Branch Preserve in Winslow Township, Camden County. In addition to the buffer, the easement provides protection to wetlands adjacent to the scenic Great Egg Harbor River. The 148-acre Four Mile Branch Preserve in Monroe Township, Gloucester County, was further enhanced through donation of 3.76 acres by Allen Brighton. This hardwood forested wetland along the Kiege Branch, a small tributary of the Four Mile, extends the

Trust’s stewardship over a documented population of swamp pink, a federally endangered plant species.

Other donations adjacent to Trust properties providing enhanced open space protection include 21 acres from Lillian Baker, doubling the size of the Trust’s wetland holdings along the Manaway Branch in Newfield Borough, Gloucester County. A buffer of 23 acres was added to the Budd Lake Bog Preserve in Mount Olive Township, Morris County, consisting of hardwood forested wetlands draining into Budd Lake. This area is the site of several rare natural communities and endangered species populations and buffer lands are critical to their maintenance. Working through the Ridge and Valley Land Trust, a local conservation organization, additional acreage was donated to the Trust by George and Madeline Sappah to supplement the 270 acre Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve.


Regardless of the size of the additions, they provide protection to open space and allow us to increase our stewardship role with only a modest increase in effort for our limited management staff.

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PHOTO:  
*Manaway Branch Preserve*  
by M. Rapp



## ...AND IN HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

 Hamilton Township, Atlantic County is an important location for the Trust. We have established a strong base of open space protection, with several properties acquired in 1996 increasing our management responsibilities to approximately 1,800 acres in this municipality that includes Preservation as well as Growth Areas defined by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

The Allen's Woods Preserve grew by more than 97 acres, thanks to an acquisition by the State Green Acres Program and assignment of stewardship to the Trust. This property extends protection to wetlands associated with the Great Egg Harbor River and upland pitch pine, habitat for the threatened pine snake. The parcel is located in the Pinelands Protection Area and is adjacent to the Allen's Woods Preserve. The habitat is open, sandy pitch pine uplands flanked by dense pitch pine lowlands with an understory of pepperbush, highbush blueberry and smilax.

In 1995, Florence Walker donated to the Trust an 82 acre parcel increasing our Hamilton Preserve and including critical habitat for a large population of

Knieskern's beaked rush, an endangered plant found nowhere in the world, outside of New Jersey. This past year, Mrs. Walker donated an additional 9.72 acres as buffer to the previous gift of land. The site has a mix of communities including pitch pine lowland and upland, scrub oak upland, and a natural vernal pond, about a half acre in size. Wet during the fall, the area dries during summer months and becomes an open area of grasses and other herbaceous plants.

The Costa Preserve began as ten acres in the late 1980's, but has grown each year to provide open space protection to a variety of habitat types in Hamilton Township. This year was not an exception as a result of a donation from Lynn Joan Dell, and Joy Sue Kurland. The two sisters are previous donors to the Trust's Costa Preserve, this year contributing oak forest uplands to an assemblage of land now totaling over 450 acres. Roland and Debra Kraus provided a gift of upland buffer to pitch pine lowlands along a small unnamed tributary to the Trust's Watering Race Preserve. The uplands of oak and Mountain Laurel slope northwest into a mature pitch pine lowland community.

## *In 1996...*

...the Natural Lands Trust again found little idle time and concentrated on completing 25 individual closings, bringing approximately 1,299 acres under Trust stewardship. The size of the acquisitions range from the new 715 acre addition to the Crossley Preserve in Ocean County, to a 0.5 acre parcel providing road frontage and access to our Collings Pines Preserve, in Atlantic County. Nearly 80 percent of the total represents additions to existing Trust properties. Working closely with the Green Acres Program in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we were able to secure protection of three parcels, including the addition to Crossley Preserve, significant for its rare species habitat. Management has already been initiated on another large addition to the Crossley Preserve where ownership is expected to be transferred from the Nature Conservancy in the coming year. As we enter 1997, the Trust has responsibility for nearly 10,000 acres throughout the State, and expects to protect additional open space in the future.

...At its Annual Meeting in March, the Board of Trustees elected a new Chairperson, Frank Leary. Mr. Leary has been a member of the Board since 1984, is an Environmental Consultant with C&K Consulting, and resides in Phillipsburg. One of his first initiatives as Chairperson was to begin discussion of the Trust's mission and operation, culminating in a Board planning conference held in September.

...The Board welcomed two new members to its ranks; Kathleen Crotty, Executive Director of the Senate Minority Office was designated to represent Senator John Lynch, and George Gross, Administrator General Services Administration was appointed to represent State Treasurer Brian Clymer.

## MANKILLER PRESERVE CONTINUES TO GROW

✿ At the point where Babcock Creek joins the Mankiller Branch in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County, the Trust's Mankiller Preserve totaled approximately 70 acres until this past year. Four separate and non-contiguous parcels in 1996 enlarged the Trust's stewardship responsibilities by more than 33 acres. Donations from Roland and Debra Kraus, John Finello, Janice M. Kerrigan, and James and Mary Burke combined to provide further protection to the headwaters of these two streams and portions of the Jack Pudding Branch that feed into Babcock Creek.

The Kraus and Kerrigan land donations are located at the headwaters of the Mankiller Branch not easily accessible, having frontage along a paper road, Spruce Street. Here in an undeveloped, heavily wooded area, the Branch is a narrow flowing stream, less than five feet wide as it passes through the property. The wetlands associated with this headwater are small, shallow, standing pools of water with patches of red maple and black gum tree stands in an otherwise typical pitch pine lowland. Pepperbush, highbush blueberry, sphagnum moss and smilax are frequent cover

provided for wood ducks and various songbirds.

The Finello donation, along Babcock Creek, is predominately wetlands and lies just upstream of the main preserve. The Gross and Burke properties, however, are a mixture of pitch pine uplands leading to lowlands associated with the Jack Pudding Branch. The vegetation of each of these parcels is similar to that of other portions of the Mankiller Preserve. Additional properties are expected to be added to this growing preserve during the coming year as discussions continue with other landowners.

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PHOTO:  
*Mankiller Preserve*  
*by M. Rapp*





## CROSSLEY: A LABORATORY FOR PLANT RESEARCH

During a leisurely hike along the nature trail at the Crossley Preserve in late summer or early fall you might notice the small grassy green stems emerging from the wet clay trail bed. Then again, you might not.

Knieskern's beaked-rush, or *Rhynchospora knieskernii* in botanical vernacular, is among the rarest plants in the United States, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which listed it as federally threatened in 1991 under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. It may also be the botanical equivalent of the snail darter: inconspicuous, ordinary and easily overlooked, unless you know what you're looking for. It's not a grass, it's a sedge that is found nowhere in the world outside of southern New Jersey. And several colonies occur across roughly 100 acres in the northern portion of Crossley Preserve.

What makes the tiny seeds of this plant grow? How can the Trust ensure that this species is properly managed at Crossley? Is the species dependent on disturbance and, if so, what type of disturbance is most suitable? And, finally, can anything be done to foster the expansion of the Crossley population?

These are some of the questions staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of Natural Lands Management and the Natural Lands Trust seek to answer through field and greenhouse studies which began in 1996. Mary Yurlina, a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University and student intern at the ONLM, is leading the research effort.


Seeds were collected to determine what percentage germinate under controlled conditions. Soil samples, presumably containing seed of the beaked-rush, were collected from the trails at Crossley as well as other locations and subjected to two types of moisture in a greenhouse at Rutgers. A five-foot swath adjacent to one of the Crossley trails supporting the plant was cleared of vegetation and exposed to three soil disturbance patterns to determine if seeds potentially present in the soil would respond. Finally, simulated tire ruts were created along the fringe of a boggy area to see if this stimulates emergence of the plant.

Preliminary results indicate that the seeds require both a cold treatment and light to germinate. Forty percent of seeds exposed to light germinated while only one seed out of 175 germinated in total darkness. Soil samples obtained from the Crossley population produced many plants in the greenhouse and most of the plants turned out to be *Rhynchospora*. The wet soil treatment on average produced more *Rhynchospora* plants, but also produced significantly taller plants than the dry treatment. The wet treatment plants were also noticeably taller than their parent plants in the trails at Crossley, suggesting that soil moisture and light may not be optimal in the field.

Clearing of a swath adjacent to one of the Crossley trails did not appear to result in emergence of *Rhynchospora*, or much of anything else. Finally, simulated tire ruts unexpectedly resulted in a greater number of plants emerging on the ridges adjacent to the ruts than in the ruts themselves. Continued monitoring of the Crossley population will be performed throughout 1997, and a report on the results of this research is due by year's end.

PHOTO:  
*Studying rare plants at  
Crossley Preserve  
by T. Hampton*

## MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF THE TRUST

 We often hear the phrase “management of open space” and, depending on one’s perspective, it means different things to different people. How does the Trust manage its open space for the benefit of the public? Having determined boundaries during acquisition, posting Trust signs along visible borders lets the public know that the land is protected. Keeping an accurate inventory of land and its resources are also key to effective management. This past year, the Trust began mapping its holdings on a Geographic Information System (GIS), to share location information with other open space managers. The GIS also allows us to take advantage of physical and natural resource information supplied by others to create a single property map that depicts not only Trust boundaries, but roads, streams, developed lands, agriculture, wetlands, and endangered species habitat. We anticipate that all Trust properties will be mapped this way by the end of next year.

Martin Rapp, Ecologist for the Trust, keeps a watchful eye over our properties throughout the year using information available on the GIS, but that is no substitute for personal, on-site

inspections. These begin, before the land passes to the Trust, with Martin taking notes and using a video camera to record all he sees. Return trips throughout the year may be required depending on the need for additional information or response to public use. This past year, Martin was joined by Rick Dutko, a zoologist with the Natural Heritage Program, to conduct a survey of butterflies at the Whale Pond and Cedar Bridge Preserves in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. While there looking for several endangered winged creatures, Rick and Martin found time to plant white oak trees at Whale pond, with the seedlings supplied courtesy of the Forestry Service Nursery in Jackson. David Snyder, a botanist also with the Heritage Program, joined Martin and Rick at the Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve where they located no less than nine state-listed rare plants and animals.

Sometimes, the adventure of searching for species comes second to respond-

ing to the needs of properties abused by people. Trash dumped by insensitive individuals is a problem not just for the Trust but for all who own and manage open space. Often we hear from our local volunteers or municipal officials about recent or continued dumping, as was the case this year at our Budd Lake Bog Preserve. Receiving a call from a Mount Olive Township official, Martin learned that an old trash location on recently acquired Trust land was the site of continued dumping. The first step to stop the vicious cycle of abuse was to remove the existing trash. Two pick-up loads of recyclable materials and more than 100 tires were taken last November as a first step in cleaning the site. Martin plans to enlist the assistance of a local Boy Scout troop this spring to complete the cleanup and help maintain the area.

All lands demand some attention for natural resource survey and monitoring. Some sites require a great deal of time and effort, with assistance from local officials and volunteers. Other preserves continue to be models, needing limited interference to maintain natural diversity. These are just a few examples of how the Trust ‘manages open space’.

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PHOTO:

*Collecting rare butterflies at  
Limestone Ridge Marsh  
by R. Cortica*







## Gifts of Open Space

While the Trust continues to concentrate on adding lands to existing preserves, opportunities to protect new areas continue to surface and be accepted by the Trust. In 1996, the Trust accepted a donation of lands in Mullica Township, Atlantic County, from Dominick, Marie and John Cavuto, not far from our Pleasant Mills Preserve. The gift of two separate parcels, totaling 39 acres, located in a rural setting of the Pinelands, has been named the Little Mill Preserve. The property is completely wetlands with a heavy undergrowth of lowbush blueberry and black huckleberry beneath young pitch pines and black jack oaks. Part of the offering includes a maturing stand of Atlantic white cedar and red maple swamp combined with a long-abandoned blueberry field.

In the northern part of the state, a donation of nearly 63 acres has become the new Sweet Hollow Preserve in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County. The property contains the headwaters of a tributary to the Hakiwokake Creek which flows through the Trust's Wolock Preserve, less than one mile downstream. Although, at one time the property was slated for subdivision and development, the property owner, Nicholas Lorusso, decided otherwise and generously donated the land to be protected as open space. The stream quality running through the site is excellent and can probably be attributed to the undisturbed forest buffering the main course of the stream. A mature, mixed hardwood forest of tulip, maple, ash and oak canopy exists above a healthy under-story of shrub and herbaceous layer.

The acquisition of the new areas will increase stewardship responsibilities for the staff, however, their acceptance contributes to protection of important open space, the benefits of which will be enjoyed by future generations.

## VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

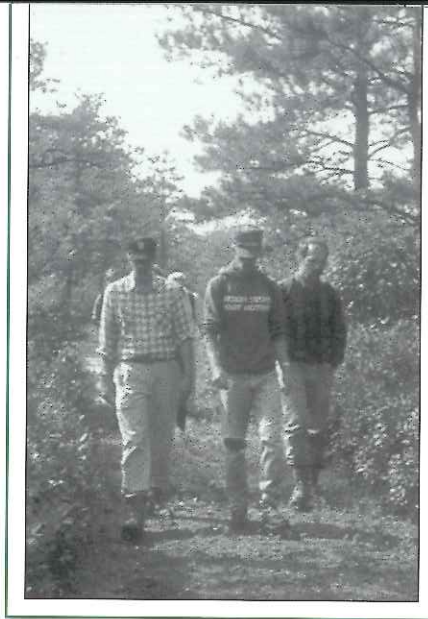
Management by the Trust usually begins after receiving title to the property. In some circumstances, however, there are advantages to working with others beforehand, to remedy abuses to the land before transfer. Such was the case this past fall when volunteers for the Trust joined with those of The Nature Conservancy and State Park Service to gather trash from a site scheduled to be acquired in 1997. Part of the "Berkeley Triangle", approximately 4,200 acres of land will be acquired by The Nature Conservancy and is scheduled to be transferred to various agencies of the Department of Environmental Protection and to the Trust.

While recognized as an important Pinelands resource, the property supports critical habitat for the threatened pine snake, much of the area had been subject to trash dumping in the past. With assistance provided from Leisure Technology (property owner), Berkeley Township, and Ocean County, volunteers converged on the site for several Saturdays in October and November to remove TVs, tires and tons of trash. The Nature Conservancy assumed the lead


and arranged for all dumpster removal, while Double Trouble State Park along with the Ocean County Road Department contributed heavy equipment and operators. The Trust volunteers made a big showing on the first day with more than 35 volunteers providing assistance. "I was proud to see such support and commitment from the users of our Crossley Preserve" said Martin Rapp, land manager for the Trust. Many volunteers supplied their own 4-wheel drive trucks to maneuver through sand and mud hauling scrap metal, appliances, and rubbish.

Now that the site has been cleaned, efforts will be focused on ecological management. The Trust intends to reforest an old sand and gravel pit, institute a controlled burning program in cooperation with the NJ Forest Fire Service, and perhaps expand a hiking trail network to link protected properties from the Whiting Wildlife Management Area, through Crossley, and on to the NJ Audubon Sanctuary and Double Trouble State Park. This linkage of protection at Crossley and within the Berkeley Triangle was only possible through the efforts of many for the benefit of all.





## RETREAT—ADVANCE TO THE FUTURE

 The Natural Lands Trust was established in 1969 when the governor signed legislation creating an independent state agency to acquire and preserve land in its natural state for enjoyment by the public. It was a simple, yet unique, concept back then, seen as necessary in the years prior to creation of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and most land protection non-profit organizations. Over the years, the Trust has matured to become an entity holding title and managing nearly 10,000 acres of open space. But times have changed since the late 1960's. There have been several successful Green Acres Bonds and acquisition of thousands of acres of land by the DEP; many national and local land protection non-profit organizations have been established and grown; and, Trust stewardship has increased without a corresponding increase in funding, making future acquisitions a critical issue.

In September, the Trustees and staff held an all day conference to discuss the role of the Trust and its future direction. The day began with an overview of the Trust's mission and land acquisition over the years, highlighting the Trust's unique role as a State agency whose land

cannot be taken by other government agencies. The function of the present-day Trust was discussed in relation to those of other entities as well. Should the Trust continue to acquire large and small parcels of land, narrow its focus to only the most significant sites for protection of natural diversity, or limit acceptable parcels to those more easily managed? The DEP and many private, nonprofit organizations have specific niches of open space they seek to protect or regions of the state to which they restrict their operation. The Board decided that many tracts of significant land may not be acquired if the Trust were to change its criteria at this time. Continued close coordination with each of these other partners will be critical in the future to insure cost-effective protection.

In 1984, when a land manager was first hired by the Trust, that person had responsibility for less than 700 acres of land. While the acreage of land has increased by more than 1,400% since

then, there has been no increase in the number of land managers employed by the Trust. Nevertheless, the Board heard how the current staff has made extensive use of local volunteers to assist with specific management projects at individual sites. Board members also suggested enlisting the aid of the more than 350 local environmental commissions that exist throughout the state. Several other valuable suggestions were made but it was noted that a volunteer coordinator would be necessary to insure that these methods were implemented. Additional funding will be sought to manage lands under the stewardship of the Trust, now and in the future.

It was a profitable day of learning, exchanging ideas for future discussion and decision. Whether the Trust will revise its acquisition criteria is a question that is currently under review by subcommittees established on that September day. How management occurs in the future, ultimately affecting the acquisition issue, is clearly a matter of funding for necessary staff to coordinate volunteer activities. The insights and positive feelings experienced that day could hardly be called a 'retreat'.

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PHOTO:  
*Walking trails*  
by V. Salice

## *The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust*

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

 Policy for the Trust is set by an eleven-member Board of Trustees. 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, Executive Director of New Jersey Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. Resides in Mendham Borough, Morris County.

EMILE DeVITO, Director of Conservation Biology, New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Resides in South Plainfield Borough, Middlesex County.

SALLY DUDLEY, Executive Director, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. Resides in Harding Township, Morris County.

RUTH EHINGER, Land Use Regulation Program, Department of Environmental Protection. Resides in Hopewell Township, Mercer County.

BETSY FOSTER, member New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Resides in Haworth Borough, Bergen County.

THOMAS GILMORE, Executive Director, New Jersey Audubon Society. Resides in Franklin Lakes Borough, Bergen County.

GEORGE GROSS, Administrator, General Services Administration; Representing State Treasurer. Resides in Mendham Borough, Morris County.

JAMES HALL (Vice Chairperson), Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources, Department of Environmental Protection; representing the Commissioner. Resides in North Hanover Township, Burlington County.

THERESA LETTMAN, Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Resides in Manchester Township, Ocean County.

HONORABLE JOHN A. LYNCH, Senator from District 17 and member of the State House Commission. Resides in the City of New Brunswick, Middlesex County.

THOMAS WELLS, Administrator, Green Acres Program, Department of Environmental Protection. Resides in Mendham Borough, Morris County.

DAVID F. MOORE, Secretary/Treasurer

#### *Staff*

THOMAS F. HAMPTON, Executive Director  
BEVERLY MAZZELLA, Real Estate Coordinator  
JUDETH PICCININI YEANY, Counsel  
MARTIN RAPP, Ecologist





## *Donors*

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Pamela & Allen Brighton  
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