

**New Jersey Natural Lands Trust**

**2000 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 the acceptance of 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.

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## In 2000...


 The Natural Lands Trust completed fifteen individual closings, bringing approximately 637 additional acres under Trust stewardship. With the addition of this acreage, the Trust is currently responsible for over 12,610 acres located throughout the State.

The Trust's land acquisitions for 2000 ranged in size from 1/10th of an acre to 189 acres. The smallest and largest acquisitions were both located in Burlington County and were each made possible by cooperation between the Trust and the non-profit groups, STEM (Save the Environment in Moorestown) and The Nature Conservancy, respectively. The two smallest donations of 0.11 and 0.13 acres were additions to the Trust's 39-acre Moorestown Preserve. These donations were made possible by a STEM volunteer, attorney Mark Tarantino, through his careful perusal of the municipal tax sale lists. Because of Mark's interest, diligence and follow-up, he was able to ensure that these infill parcels were preserved. The largest of this year's land donations to the Trust reflects only a portion of the lands designated to become the Trust's Retreat Preserve in Southampton Township (See "Conservation and Cooperation: A Model for the Future," page 7).

Nearly half of the Trust's new holdings was donated directly to the Trust; whereas the other half was transferred to the Trust for management, through the State's Green Acres Program. Eleven of the fifteen new land holdings represented additions to the following Trust preserves: Mankiller, Moorestown, Crossley, Hamilton, Sooy Place, Pancoast, Costa, and Budd Lake Bog. Three donations to the Trust, the above-mentioned Retreat Preserve, the Pruchnicki property, and the Holiday property, estab-

lished new Trust preserves. The Pruchnicki and Holiday properties, each less than 10 acres in size, were received by the Trust as the result of the owners taking advantage of existing, governmental, "Smart Growth" incentives. Hamilton Township's TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) Program allowed the donors to build on a non-conforming lot in a Pinelands-approved development area by deed restricting the Pruchnicki property which lies within an area deemed environmentally important. The Holiday parcel is located within an area of interest to the Pinelands LPU (Limited Practical Use) Program. This program can provide financial relief for certain qualifying owners for the purchase of properties within defined sensitive Pinelands areas. 

## Personnel Highlights

In March 2000, Trust Chairperson, Sally Dudley left the Trust to accept an appointment to the Pinelands Commission. NJNLT Trustee Michael Catania was elected by Trust Board members to assume the position of Chairperson. In December 2000, Leigh Rae, Director of The Trust for Public Land (TPL) was appointed to the Trust by Governor Christine Todd Whitman. The Governor selected Leigh from an impressive list of 12 candidates nominated by a committee of specified conservation and environmental groups active in the State of New Jersey. Also in 2000, Deputy Attorney General Judeth Piccinini Yeany, who for over 10 years served as Counsel to the Trust, left to take a position as the Chief of the Bureau of Legal Services and Compliance within the Green Acres Program. The Trust wishes Judeth and Sally well in their new positions and proudly welcomes our new Trustee, Leigh, and our new Trust Counsel, Deputy Attorney General Alyssa Pearlman Wolfe. 



## Volunteers—the Lifeblood of Trust Stewardship

**W**ith the 1999 addition of a third staff member, the Trust's revitalized volunteer program has been a "beehive" of activity. In 2000, many individuals and various organizations, including Boy Scouts, AmeriCorps (the domestic Peace Corps), senior citizens, an intermediate school environmental club, and a group of college freshmen, were involved in monitoring, management, or outreach projects benefiting New Jersey Natural Lands Trust preserves throughout the State.

**T**hrough the Trust's Volunteer Outreach Program, volunteers offer educational programs such as walks and slide shows to encourage the protection of the environment and the preservation of natural lands. The outreach program also extends invitations to local residents to volunteer, visit, and respect their neighboring Trust Preserves. Long-time Trust volunteer, Lois Morris, contributes generously to Trust outreach for the Crossley Preserve located in Berkeley and Manchester Townships in Ocean County. In

2000, she presented the Crossley slide show to local residents and to a local historical society. She also led several walks at Crossley. These walks were sponsored by a local residents' club, the Ocean Nature and Conservation Society,



*The Jersey Devil and "his" 1949 Crosley oldsmobile at Crossley Preserve.*

and the New Jersey Audubon Society as part of their "Lost Towns Day." A noteworthy participant at the Ocean Nature and Conservation Society's walk was the Jersey Devil himself who arrived at the Crossley Preserve in a 1949 Crosley automobile.

**V**olunteers involved in Trust management projects can complete in a few hours what it can take a single staff person several days, and/or a hefty expense, to accomplish. In 2000, volunteers contributed over 120 hours to Trust management projects. Groups and individuals participating in the



*AmeriCorps volunteers removing an old boardwalk at Claming Creek Preserve.*

Trust's Volunteer Management Program included AmeriCorps members from the Atlantic/Cape May County AmeriCorps Program, a Scout from BSA Troop 65 in Haddonfield, New Jersey, and a group of freshmen involved in Centenary College's "Community Plunge" Program. On several days in late May and early June, AmeriCorps volunteers met Trust

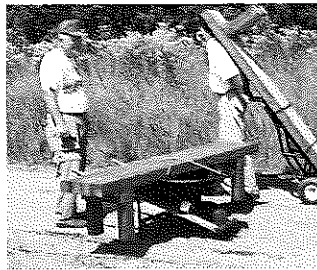
staff to perform the manual labor of removing a dilapidated and dangerous boardwalk along with several docks at the Claming Creek Preserve in Berkeley



*An AmeriCorps volunteer working to remove the Claming Creek boardwalk.*



Township, Ocean County. In August 2000, Alex Winkler, a Boy Scout working to earn the prestigious Hornaday Medal, constructed, donated, and delivered four sturdy benches to the Crossley Preserve's interpretative trail so that trail walkers will be able to take a rest as they leisurely enjoy nature. Finally, a group of fifteen or so Centenary College students gave up their Labor Day weekend to volunteer to clean up trash at the Trust's Budd Lake Bog Preserve in Morris County. A newly acquired portion of the Preserve was made more presentable by the students' work removing tires, an old washing machine, and various other items of trash—twenty or thirty contractor's trash bags full! The Township of Mt. Olive also lent a necessary hand by picking up and disposing of the collected garbage.



*Volunteers moving the benches into place at Crossley Preserve's Interpretative trail.*



*Alex Winkler, donor of the Crossley benches.*



*Centenary College students cleaning up Budd Lake Bog Preserve.*

With the Trust's continually growing acreage, the success of the Volunteer Monitoring Program is especially important. Volunteer monitors regularly walk through properties held by the Trust and keep Trust staff aware of the status of the preserved properties' upkeep and ecological integrity. Local monitors, who stay in touch with the land under their care and who maintain a consistent lookout for disturbances and potential problems, make a priceless contribution to the Trust and the citizens of New Jersey. Organized preserve monitoring, employing Trust-trained volunteers, enables the Trust to more effectively maintain property postings and to catch or possibly prevent abuses of the land such as dumping, encroachments, habitat destruction, or disturbances due to activities on adjacent properties. In 2000, an additional sixty-six volunteer hours were contributed by volunteer monitors. Owen Heller, a local senior citizen, actively monitored the Crossley Preserve's nature trail and also contributed to several management projects on the trail. In 2001, Owen will have trail management help from Lacey Township Cub Scout Pack 156. The Pack rebuilt the trail's bridges and signposts in 1999 and now plans to adopt the trail. In exchange for trail management help, Owen is excited about teaching the Scouts about Native American culture and artifacts.

Also in 2000, the Byram Township Intermediate School's Environmental Club monitored the Lubbers Run Preserve. On May 23, 2000, the Trust's Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator, Martha Windisch, was invited to the school's "Adopt-A-Stream" day. She taught several groups of students about the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and its mission. Martha talked about habitats, biological communities, and the value of protecting natural diversity. Using the Trust's nearby Lubbers Run Preserve as an example, she shared information about wetland



communities, watersheds, and non-point source pollution with the enthusiastic young audience. In addition, Martha helped the children determine how they can collectively and individually improve their local

environment. She also told the students and teachers about the Trust's need for volunteer stewards.

In mid-summer, a Volunteer Interest and

Coordinator at Lubbers Run Preserve for training. Because of one young individual's initiative and interest in "helping others and the environment," the Lubbers Run Preserve is now under the twenty or so watchful eyes of the very capable Lubbers Run monitors from the Byram Township Intermediate School's Environmental Club.

Looking forward to 2001, Trust Staff is hoping to have volunteers monitor many more preserves including the western part of Crossley, Bear Swamp at Red Lion, Budd Lake Bog, Heathercroft, John's Woods, Penny Pot, Clarks Landing, Pomona Woods, Sooy Place, and others. Through our volunteers, the land stewardship goals of the Trust can more easily be achieved, giving the volunteers added pride in their successes and assisting the Trust in its quest to protect natural diversity. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Trust's volunteer program, please contact Martha Windisch, the Trust's Volunteer Coordinator, at 609-984-1339.



*Byram Township Intermediate School students cleaning up Lubbers Run Preserve.*

Application Form was returned to the Trust from Shannon Marie McPeck, an eighth grade pupil who had attended the "Adopt-A-Stream" day. She was involved in writing articles for the school's environmental club and was interested in monitoring and helping to maintain the Lubbers Run Preserve. As a result of that first contact with Shannon, Martha got in touch with Ms. Barbara Utz, the teacher in charge of the environmental club. When school started in the fall, Ms. Utz organized a group of student monitors who met the Trust's Volunteer/Outreach

### **Eagle Scout Project at Taylor Preserve**

In 2000, Joshua Barth, a Scout from Riverside, developed as his Eagle Scout project a major enhancement of the trails at the Trust's Taylor Wildlife Preserve. The successful project included the hauling out of trash, the refreshing of trail signage, the cutting of brush, and the identification of trees. Our thanks to the Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve for hosting this Eagle Project and thanks also to the Scouts and other volunteers for bringing the project to fruition.



## Donor, Volunteer, Friend...We Sure Do Miss Him

**T**he Trust has made many friends in its 32 years of existence. One very special friend, Goyrn Reinhardt, trusted us with one of his most precious assets. In his 1973 decision to preserve the 240-acre family farm through the assistance of the Trust, Mr. Reinhardt pursued his long-term dream that the farm would forever remain a protected place for wildlife, not developed for short-term personal financial gain. His



Hillside at the Reinhardt Preserve.

generosity and foresight resulted in the establishment of the Trust's Reinhardt Preserve. Located where Reinhardt Road intersects with Clove Road in Montague Township, Sussex County, the Preserve spans the valley of the Mill Creek from ridge to ridge. This wonderful forest of hemlocks and hardwoods, wetland meadow and mountains is tucked up against High Point State Park and buffered by easements donated by two of Goyrn's neighbors who were moved by his belief in conservation.

**I**n 1997, Goyrn donated 13 additional acres to the Trust, reaffirming his trust and belief in our mission to preserve land in its natural state.

**G**oyrn died at his home in Port Jervis, NY in February 2000, at the age of 92. "Goyrn was a man whose company I enjoyed, whose life I admired, and whose stories I wish I could have lived," said Martin Rapp, Trust Land Manager. Betsy S. Reinhardt, Goyrn's grandniece, offered these insights about Goyrn

and his passion for his farm in a letter that she wrote to Martin. The letter begins with a reference to Goyrn's gift of the family farm to the Trust:

*"...I can tell you that when this hit the paper, a lot of local people thought he had 'lost it.' Of course, we're talking about people who could not see past the money or into the future. There were a few...who did understand.*

*The wonderful thing about Goyrn was that he knew his own mind and no amount of criticism would sway him, a good trait which served him well all of his life. He was not a person who particularly cared about being in the mainstream, and this, of course, allowed him much more freedom to pursue what he loved.*

*In going through his things, one gets a real insight into a person's whole life. He literally saved everything—a mixed burden and delight. The things he loved the most were, of course, the farm he was born on and the nature and animals he learned to love there—especially his cats. As a young man he became interested in radio—ham radio, and was able to construct towers and two radio 'shacks' for his equipment. He was an early pioneer in radio and TV signals from High Point Mountain in the 20's and 30's and 40's. He loved his radio contacts, adventures, experiments, etc., and it was part of his livelihood always...*

*We sure do miss him..."*



Goyrn and Ruth Reinhardt.



## The Trust "Makes" History

**T**his year, thanks to donations from the NJ Natural Lands Trust, two museums, the Berkeley Township Historical Society Museum in Bayville, New Jersey and the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture in North Brunswick, New Jersey have acquired artifacts for their collections.

**A**fter the 1997 forest fire at the Trust's Crossley Preserve, Trust Land Manager, Martin Rapp discovered a pair of narrow gauge train car wheel and



*Berkeley Township Historical Society volunteers retrieving narrow gauge train artifacts from the woods at Crossley Preserve.*

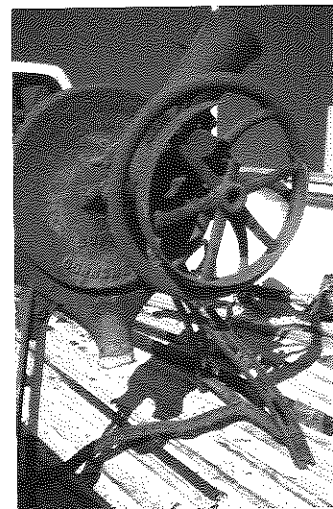
axle assemblies, known as "trucks." These trucks, and probably the entire clay-hauling cart that rode upon these trucks, were discarded at the now lost village of Crossley. Crossley was once a busy community of the

United Clay Mine Company, where narrow gauge ore carts hauled mined clay to the Pennsylvania Railroad. The body of the ore cart, being wooden, rotted away leaving the trucks buried in heavy vegetation at the edge of an old bog until the forest fire burned away the brush.

**T**he news of Martin's interesting find was eventually shared with Crossley historian and Trust volunteer Lois Morris, who, as Martin says, "knows everyone." Soon Jerry Beer, Al Stokley, and Dave Harrison, with Trust permission, came to haul the trucks out of the woods to be displayed at the Berkeley Township Historical Society Museum. These trucks and a pair of couplings make up some of the

last remnants of this once prosperous town and industry. The public is invited to view these and other historical artifacts at the Berkeley Township Historical Society museum, which can be reached by calling 732-269-9527.

**T**he Trust also donated a W.W. Woodward Burrall corn sheller, patented 1846, to the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture, which houses one of the Nation's most significant agricultural collections. The corn sheller was donated in memory of Eloise Lenhardt since it came from her farm which is now part of the Trust's 370-acre Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve in Blairstown, New Jersey. When Trust Land Manager Martin Rapp pulled the rusty cast iron implement from under a briar patch, he noticed the markings that read W.W. Woodward, Newton, New Jersey. He knew that this was not just a piece of scrap iron, but, instead, a piece of New Jersey agricultural history. Now that the corn sheller has been donated to the



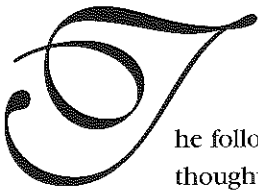
*The W.W. Woodward Burrall corn sheller found at Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve.*

Museum of Agriculture, visitors can imagine how its rusty old crank once shelled kernels of corn from the cob as the first process in cracking it into livestock feed or grinding it into cornmeal. To find out more about the corn sheller and other agricultural artifacts, the Museum of Agriculture can be reached at [www.agriculturemuseum.org](http://www.agriculturemuseum.org) or by calling 732-249-2077. ☺






## Conservation and Cooperation: A Model for the Future

 The following illustrates how thoughtful collaboration, executed with tenacity, can work to benefit the environment.

In 1996, The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey (TNC) worked together with the Trust, local governments, the Pinelands Commission, and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to secure a donation of 4,100 acres of Pine Barrens from Leisure Technology, Inc., a developer of senior citizen housing. The donor and TNC worked together to formulate a model agreement that balanced the needs for additional housing with the protection of critical habitat. Key to this deal was the transfer of development rights from sensitive areas hoped to be protected to the site of an existing development in Southampton Township, Burlington County, where sewers, water supply and a road network were already in place.

Through the imagination and intervention of TNC, the Trust was able to participate in this fruitful partnership. The first phase of this multifaceted endeavor resulted in the transfer of 206.42 donated acres to the Trust in 2000, establishing the Retreat Preserve in Southampton Township, Burlington County. When the project is complete, Retreat Preserve will be enlarged by another 356 acres and the Trust's Crossley Preserve in Berkeley Township, Ocean County will be enlarged by nearly 1,070 acres. In addition to these land donations to the Trust, TNC will also donate some 2,186 acres of the Leisuretech lands to expand Double Trouble State Park, as well as 342 acres to expand the Manchester Wildlife Management Area. This ambitious undertaking in the Pine Barrens saves precious cedar swamps and lowland forests and provides habitat for

rare species such as the pine barrens treefrog and Pickering's morning glory.

Because of TNC's guidance during this transaction's extensive deliberations and follow-up, the final negotiated agreement was successful in discouraging piecemeal and scattered development and encouraging appropriate patterns of compatible development, thus helping to accommodate regional growth while protecting key Pinelands habitats. 

### Sussex County MUA Easement Review

Despite various requests, the Trust has rarely agreed to dispose of any title interest in lands since its creation in 1969. While the Trust has the power to dispose of property rights, it will not do so lightly and will only consider such a request if the preservation of natural diversity will be enhanced as a result of the transfer. Enhancement of natural diversity may occur through improved management by another land protection agency, or through transfer of additional lands to the Trust resulting in a significant net benefit. This concept has been the guiding principle for the Trust's consideration of all transfer proposals.

In 2000, the Trust reviewed the application of the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) for a 600-foot sewage pipeline easement through an existing dirt trail on the Wallkill Preserve in Ogdensburg Borough, Sussex County. The SCMUA is required under the terms of a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) permit to construct the sewage pipeline. The only remaining issue was the route for the line.

After deliberations that spanned more than a year, including a public hearing in Ogdensburg, the Trustees approved the SCMUA's proposal under the Trust's September 12, 1997 *Guidelines for Transfer of Property Rights*. In addition to improving the water quality of the Wallkill River by eliminating current discharge points, the SCMUA agreed to pay fair market value for the easement, to transfer to the Trust 26.45 acres of property in fee simple, to transfer a conservation easement on another 40 acres, and to take extensive measures to minimize disturbance to the Wallkill Preserve. This area of the Wallkill River Valley is reported to host significantly important bog turtle habitat. Because homogenous management of this sensitive area can provide immeasurable environmental benefits, many of the Trustees came to recognize that if the SCMUA chose the other routes, enhancements to the Wallkill River watershed realized through the Trust's negotiations would not have been provided, but the secondary impacts to the valley would have remained.



## **The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust**

### **Board of Trustees**

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

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

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

**Sally Dudley**, Executive Director, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions.

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

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

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

**Theresa Lettman**, Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

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

**Anthony Mazzella**, Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Treasury.  
Representing State Treasurer.

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

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

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

\* **Leigh Rae**, Director, The Trust for Public Land. Appointed in December 2000 as Trustee to fill the vacancy left by Sally Dudley.

### **Staff**

Thomas F Hampton, Executive Director

Beverly Mazzella, Real Estate Coordinator

Martin Rapp, Ecologist

Martha Windisch, Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator

Judeth Piccinni Yeany, Counsel

Alyssa Pearlman Wolfe, Counsel

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## List of Donors

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust gratefully extends its thanks to those who have donated land or funds to the Trust in 2000 to help preserve and protect New Jersey's natural heritage.

*John Robert Black*

*Thomas D. Byrnes*

*Anthony J. and Maureen Finello*

*William G. Guthe and Carol K. Moriuchi  
(in memory of Tev Airola)*

*William and Emma Lee*

*Mays Landing Sportsmen Club*

*Richard and Janet Miller*

*Edward K. Pew and Jill A. Pruchnicki*

*Save the Environment in Moorestown (STEM)*

*The Nature Conservancy*

*Florence Walker*

*Greg and Alex Winkler*

The Trust accepts gifts, legacies, bequests, and endowments of land and/or funds for use in accordance with the Trust's purpose. For more information about how you can make a donation to further the Trust's mission to acquire, preserve, and manage natural lands for the protection of natural diversity, call 609-984-1339.

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



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