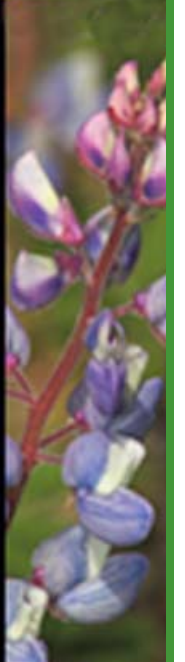




NEW JERSEY
NATURAL LANDS TRUST

Preserving New Jersey's Natural Diversity

2007 Annual Report



Statement of Purpose

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was created by the Legislature in 1968 as an independent agency with the mission to preserve land in its natural state for enjoyment by the public and to protect natural diversity through the acquisition of open space. The Trust preserves land primarily by donations of open space through acquisition of title in fee simple or of conservation easements, and manages its properties to conserve endangered species habitat, rare natural features, and significant ecosystems. The Trust invites passive use by the public for recreational or educational purposes wherever such use will not adversely affect ecological communities and biological diversity.

The Trust also recognizes that ownership and management alone are not enough to achieve its mission. Public education is an integral function of protecting natural diversity. The Trust distributes information designed to convey a conservation ethic for the protection of open space and its natural values.

New Jersey Natural Lands Trust contact information:

New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
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www.njnlt.org

Index of Preserves Referenced Within the 2007 Annual Report

Atlantic County

Clarks Landing Preserve ~ Pages 1
Hamilton Preserve ~ Pages 1

Burlington County

Bear Swamp at Red Lion Preserve ~ Pages 1
Moorestown Preserve ~ Pages 1

Hunterdon County

Gravel Hill Preserve ~ Pages 1
Hagedorn Preserve ~ Pages 1
Highfields Preserve ~ Pages 1, 4, 5
Sweet Hollow Preserve ~ Pages 1

Morris County

Black Meadows Preserve ~ Pages 6, 7

Ocean County

Crossley Preserve ~ Pages 1, 10

Sussex County

Quarryville Brook Preserve ~ Pages 1
Wallkill Preserve ~ Pages 1

Warren County

Bear Creek Preserve ~ Pages 1
Buttermilk Bridge Preserve ~ Pages 1, 11
Limestone Ridge Marsh Preserve ~ Pages 1

Cover photos by Herb Lord (clockwise from upper left):

- 1) dragon mouth - *Arethusa bulbosa*
- 2) white fringed orchid - *Platanthera blephariglottis* var. *blephariglottis*
- 3) Pine Barren gentian - *Gentiana autumnalis*
- 4) sundial lupine - *Lupinus perennis*
- 5) floatingheart - *Nymphoides cordata*
- 6) Pine Barren treefrog - *Hyla andersonii*
- 7) bog asphodel - *Narthecium americanum*





Sweet Hollow Preserve

In 2007. . .

The the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust brought approximately 1,075 new acres under Trust stewardship, making the Trust responsible for over 25,000 acres managed as a system of more than 120 preserves throughout the state.

Four of the Trust's new holdings totaling 442 acres were donated at no cost to the Trust, while the others were transferred to the Trust for management through the State's Green Acres Program.



Hagedorn Preserve

One new Trust preserve was established: **Buttermilk Bridge Preserve** in Franklin Township, Warren County. The remaining acquisitions represented additions to the **Bear Creek, Bear Swamp at Red Lion, Clarks Landing, Crossley, Gravel Hill, Hagedorn, Hamilton, Highfields, Limestone Ridge Marsh, Moorestown, Quarryville Brook, Sweet Hollow and Wallkill** preserves.

Personnel notes

In 2007, long-term Trustee Leigh Rae left the Trust's Board. In leaving she expressed, "It has been a pleasure to work with each of you, and I will miss the spirit of cooperation that I have experienced as part of the Board. I applaud your steadfast commitment toward achieving the goals of the Natural Land Trust and I wish you the best going forward." The Trust welcomed Steve Eisenhauer, Regional Director, Protection and Land Stewardship, Natural Lands Trust, Inc., as its newest Board member.



Southtown Bear Creek Preserve

MILLION DOLLARS IN NEW LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING “THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND”

In 2007 the Trust, and thus the public, became the million dollar beneficiary of a legal settlement which involved the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the Township of Stafford (Stafford), Stafford Business Park Commission and the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. The litigation stemmed from the Pinelands Commission’s approval of the redevelopment by Walters Homes, Inc. (Walters) of the Stafford Business Park in exchange for, among other things, Walters’ closure of a licensed landfill and three unlicensed landfills. The closure of the landfills and redevelopment of the business park will impact two populations of endangered and rare plants (Knieskern’s beaked-rush and little ladies’-tresses) and the habitats of two endangered and threatened animal species (southern gray treefrog and northern pine snake).

In order to mitigate for the impacts to the endangered, threatened and rare plant and animal species, Stafford agreed to pay one million dollars, in four annual installments of \$250,000.00, to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust to establish the “Threatened & Endangered Species Conservation Fund.” The Trust must use the new funding to permanently preserve land that is within the Barnegat Bay watershed and that is, in whole or in substantial part, northern pine snake habitat or contains one or more known populations of endangered or threatened plants listed in the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. The Trust has already received the first \$250,000.00, with the final installment to be paid no later than June 30, 2010. The Trust is authorized to combine this funding with other sources of funding and to work with other acquisition partners.



Photo credit: Mike Baker

little ladies'-tresses



2 Photo credit: Herb Lord

Northern Pine Snake



"Peregrine Falcon"



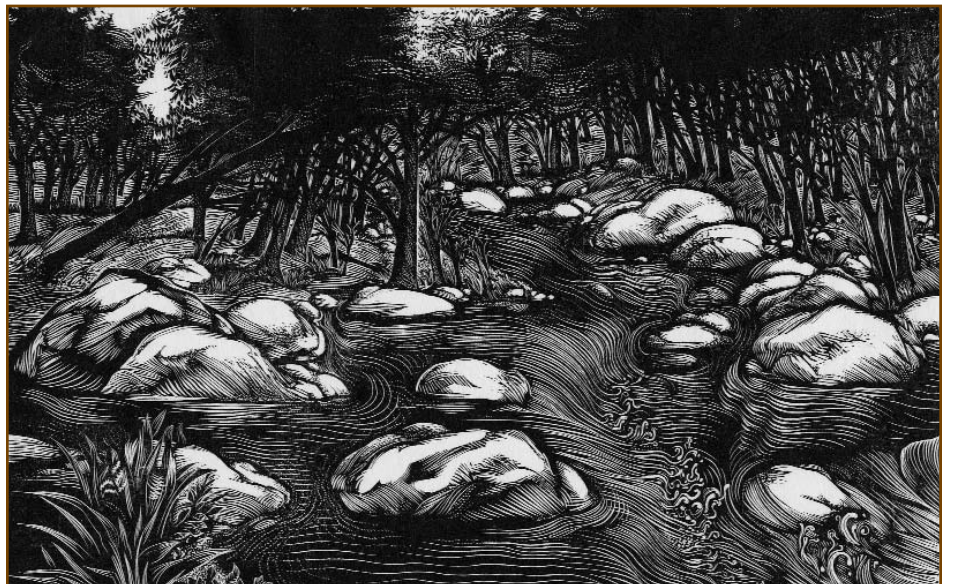
"Gentian"

Sale of Stefan Martin Prints Benefits Trust

In 1984, the Trust commissioned a series of limited edition prints created exclusively for the Trust by New Jersey wood engraver Stefan Martin. Each of the three prints highlights an object of the Trust's preservation efforts: the State-endangered Peregrine Falcon, titled "Peregrine Falcon;" a northern New Jersey stream habitat titled, "Morning Stream;" and a grouping of three Pine Barrens Gentian, titled "Gentian." After Stefan Martin's death in a 1994 fishing accident, a fellow artist noted that Martin was "absolutely one of the most important artists in New Jersey. He won many awards, was nationally known, and very well-loved."

Unframed prints are \$150 each, or \$400 for all three (a \$50 savings). Remaining as of this writing are 203 "Peregrine Falcon," 131 "Morning Stream," and 20 "Gentian" prints.

To order, contact the Trust at 609-984-1339, or email NatLands@dep.state.nj.us and indicate which print or prints you would like to order and your name and phone number. We will get back to you with ordering details.



"Morning Stream"

PRESERVATION OF THE LINDBERGH LEGACY

After his historic transatlantic flight in 1927, Charles Lindbergh became an international celebrity. Looking for a good place to raise children and spend quiet time out of the public spotlight, Charles Lindbergh and his wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, settled on a secluded area of about 374 acres within the Sourland Mountains that they had discovered from the air while flying over New Jersey. On this property, the Lindberghs built a 23-room country retreat that they called Highfields. In 1932, the bucolic estate was the site of the kidnapping of their first child, 20-month-old Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., by Bruno Hauptman. Ten weeks after the kidnapping, the infant's body was found in a shallow grave about five miles from the Lindbergh estate. Soon after this tragic incident, the Lindberghs left Highfields, and in 1941 they donated the property to the State of New Jersey with the intent that it be used for the benefit of children.

Approximately 192 acres of the estate, including the former Lindbergh home, are located in East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, while the remaining 182

acres of the estate are located in Hopewell Township, Mercer County. Since 1950, the state Department of Corrections has used the Lindbergh home as a group home for juvenile offenders. Since very little of the property surrounding the home was used by the Department of Corrections, in 1984 the state declared the Hopewell Township portion of the estate as surplus and approved its sale. There was a public outcry in response, leading to the rescission of the approval of sale and the ultimate preservation of the property through the transfer of a conservation easement to the Trust. In the ensuing years, local preservationists and historians assumed that Highfields was preserved in its entirety. During a routine open space review in 2005, however, East Amwell realized that the portion of the Highfields estate in its township was not preserved. While no sale of the East Amwell portion of Highfields was planned, the township wanted to take no chances. East Amwell immediately began campaigning for the Trust to hold a perpetual conservation easement on East Amwell portion of Highfields, similar to the one the Trust held on the Hopewell Township portion.



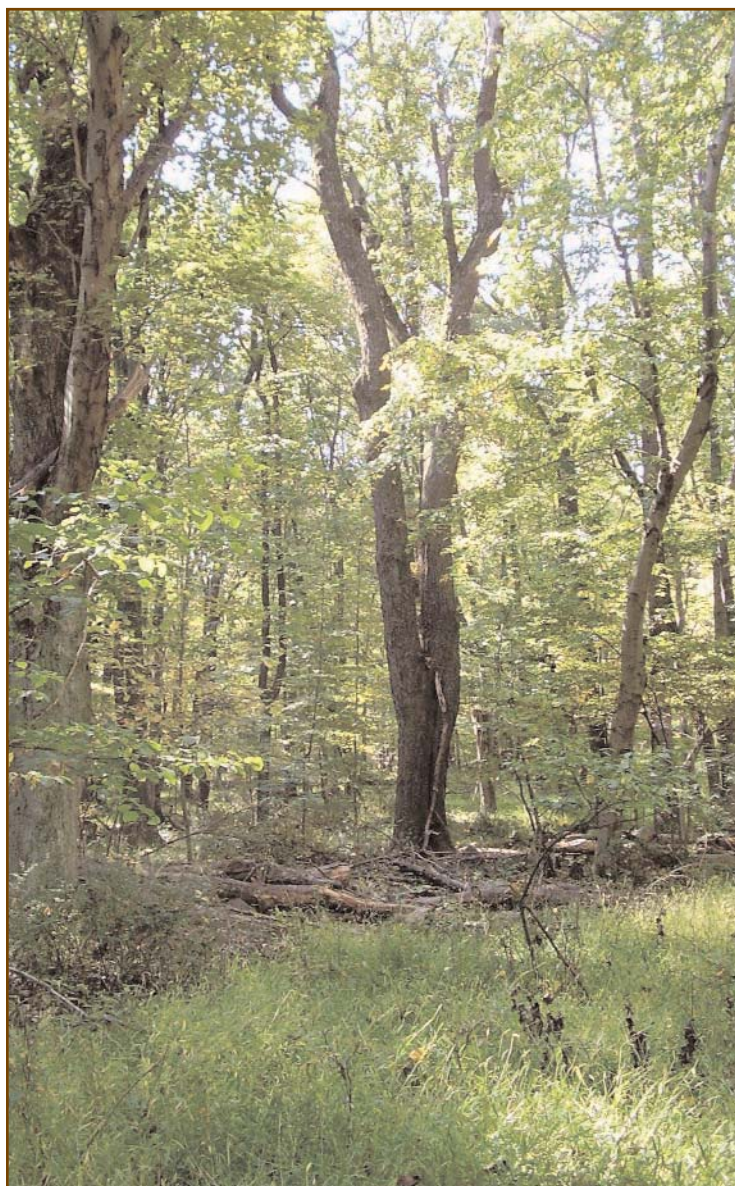
Lindbergh's Estate Today

East Amwell's efforts were successful and in 2007 the Trust obtained an easement for the East Amwell portion of Highfields. The easement creates a 10-acre "Exception Area" immediately surrounding the Lindbergh mansion giving the Department of Corrections flexibility to operate, maintain and expand the existing group home. However, all actions within this Exception Area are still subject to all other applicable laws and regulations such as approval from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office/New Jersey Historic Sites Council as this site is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Moreover, the right to construct new or expand existing structures within the Exception Area shall not extend to subsequent landowners and shall terminate if the property is sold or otherwise transferred.



Historic Lindbergh Estate

The Highfields Preserve, which also includes an additional 39-acre parcel, is located within the Sourland Mountain region and is almost entirely forested. The forest consists mostly of tulip poplar, mixed oak and red maple. This interior forest community provides critical habitat for neo-tropical forest interior nesting songbirds. This forest is part of a larger block of contiguous, unfragmented forest habitat including Hunterdon County's 243-acre Sourland Mountain Nature Preserve and Delaware & Raritan Greenway's 300-acre Northern Stony Brook Preserve, which surround Highfields.



The Forest at Highfields.

Since Highfields is heavily wooded, it provides an opportunity for group home residents to participate in several wilderness activities, including a high ropes course, which are designed to help them improve their decision making skills, increase their self confidence and encourage teamwork. This program gives residents a unique opportunity to learn about man's interaction with nature and wildlife. Residents are utilized as tour guides after completing training on the Lindbergh estate's history. The youth are also responsible for the maintenance of the historic home. Under the terms of the conservation easement, the Trust may include the residents in work opportunities on the property such as trail construction and maintenance.

The Trust is confident that its conservation easement at Highfields, along with its partnership efforts with the state Department of Corrections, will help to ensure that the Lindbergh legacy of helping children is not forgotten.

BLACK MEADOWS PRESERVE ~ MAKING THE MOST OF OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

The Trust's mission is to preserve land in a natural state in perpetuity. Sometimes, however, like it or not, the Trust is faced with having to authorize activities not directly in furtherance of its mission. The Trust hoped to preempt most such requests with the adoption in 2003 of its Guidelines for Conveyance of Land, which require very rigorous requirements to be met before the Trust may convey or transfer any interest in its land (The Guidelines are available at <http://www.njnl.org/njlandtrust.htm>). Notwithstanding these rigorous standards, in 2007 the Trust had a particularly difficult dilemma on its hands. In the name of public safety, the Morristown Municipal Airport (MMU) proposed an "obstruction removal project," which involved the topping and cutting of several acres of trees at the Trust's Black Meadows Preserve in Hanover Township, Morris County.

MMU is a publicly owned, public use airport located adjacent to the Black Meadows Preserve. The airport and its runways existed long before the Trust acquired the Black Meadows Preserve in 1993 and much of the preserve was already subject to an easement authorizing airport-related activities. Portions of the preserve, however, were not subject to the easement and in 2006 MMU approached the Trust with a request to top and clear trees within a 7.7-acre area not subject to an easement. MMU needed to top and clear these trees in order to achieve compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

standards regarding the height of obstructions, including trees, in the vicinity of the ends of airport runways. These standards are referred to as FAA controlling elevations. The FAA requires that obstructions exceeding FAA controlling elevations be removed (or lowered). When MMU first approached the Trust with the obstruction removal request, the Trust indicated that it would not authorize any activities that would facilitate proposed expansion projects. However, based on public safety considerations at stake, the Trust agreed to begin discussions with MMU.

Although the trees had to be topped or cut to the FAA's controlling elevations, the Trust sought to do it in a way that would benefit habitat for animals and plants. Black Meadows appeared to be suitable habitat for the federally-endangered Indiana bat based on its mature forested wetlands and associated streams, which is similar to the habitat of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge where a multi-year Indiana bat survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identified three Indiana bat maternity colonies. In addition, the USFWS also required an Indiana bat survey in and around the airport as a first step in permitting MMU's obstruction removal project. During the airport survey, a juvenile male Indiana bat was captured in a specially



designed mist net. It is widely known that dead trees and snags offer bats critical roosting habitat. Therefore, Trust land manager Martin Rapp encouraged the airport to girdle trees instead of simply topping or cutting them thereby improving long-term roosting habitat. MMU agreed to conduct most of its obstruction removal using the tree girdling technique. In addition, MMU also agreed to fund a two-year extension of the Great Swamp Indiana bat study within the Passaic River Watershed in the amount of \$76,000.

Because girdling precludes future tree growth, MMU did not require any long-term interest in the property. MMU sought a one-time-only access agreement to the Black Meadows Preserve making the Trust's Guidelines for Conveyance of Land inapplicable. Although the Trust approved the access agreement in late 2007, MMU cannot start its obstruction removal activities until it has received all necessary federal, state and local permits and approvals. Moreover, MMU is limited to conducting its activities between November 15th and March 15th.

Although the Trust's Guidelines for Conveyance of Land were inapplicable to its proposal, MMU agreed to provide 1:1 compensation for the 7.7 acres being affected. MMU will be providing the Trust or its designee with at least 7.7 acres of land that the Trust deems acceptable within a regional area known as Glacial Lake Passaic. The newly preserved land is to be similar to the land being affected and should consist primarily of forested wetlands or of a mosaic of emergent, scrub-shrub, and some forested floodplain wetlands, but may include some upland buffer area. In addition, MMU agreed to compensate the Trust for staff time involved in this project.

Although the impact to the Black Meadows Preserve is not ideal, the Trust approached this situation with an open-mindedness and creativity that enabled all involved to move forward in an ecologically sensitive manner resulting in additional animal habitat and preserved land while helping to ensure greater public safety.

Three Cheers for Volunteers!!!

The Trust would like to acknowledge and thank its many volunteers for their invaluable contributions to the maintenance of Trust preserves. It takes a lot of commitment and discipline to keep a watchful eye on a piece of property over time, especially since volunteer monitoring is pretty much a self-motivated endeavor. It also takes dedication to attend a preserve workday and

pick up what appears to be the same trash, year after year.

If you are interested in becoming a Trust volunteer monitor or attending a workday, please contact the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust at 609-984-1339, or email NatLands@dep.state.nj.us.

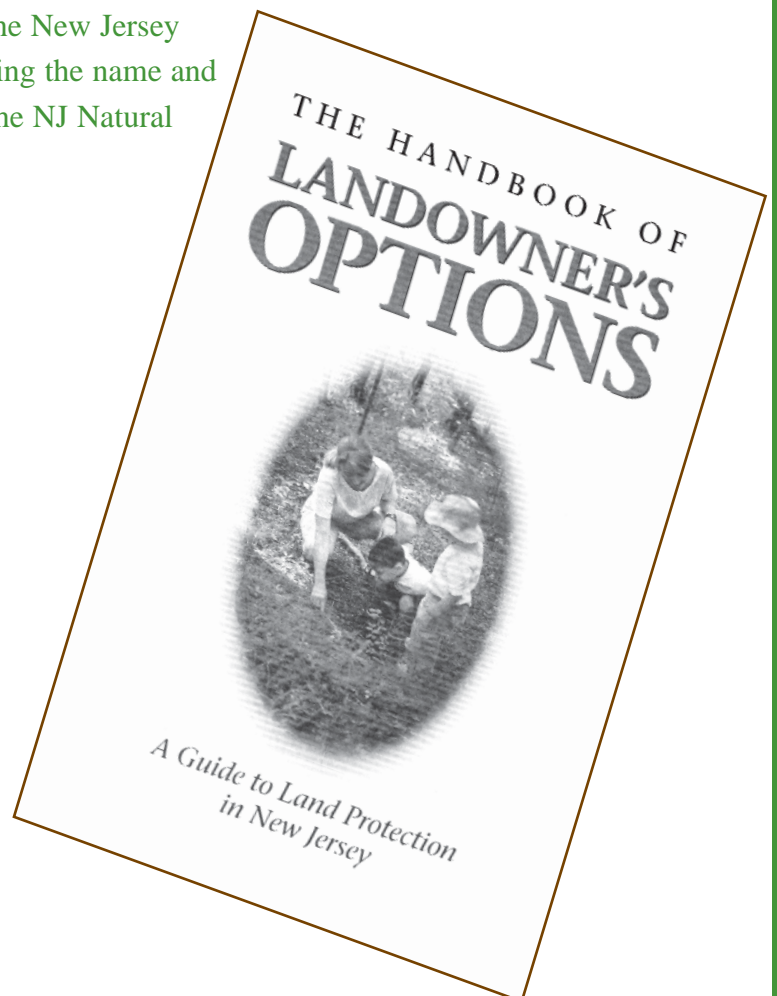
The Handbook of Landowner's Options – A Guide to Land Protection in New Jersey

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

The Handbook is available on the World Wide Web at the site of the New Jersey Environmental Digital Library.

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

To receive a hard copy of this document (the first copy is free, additional copies are \$1 each), contact the Trust at 609-984-1339 or NatLands@dep.state.nj.us. If requesting more than one copy, make your check payable to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, and send your request, including the name and address to which the handbooks are to be sent, to the NJ Natural Lands Trust, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625.



Easily accessible, updated information about the Trust – www.njnlt.org

The Trust works to regularly update information on its website including new preserve profiles, maps and management projects. For updated information about Trust activities throughout the year, please visit www.njnlt.org. The heart of the website is the Preserves and Public Uses page, containing a map of the Trust's preserves. For selected preserves, maps and additional information ~ including locations, features of interest, size, access, directions, and permitted passive recreational activities ~ is pro-

vided by clicking on the preserve location on the map. For those interested in deer hunting (only the hunting of deer is allowed, and only on selected Trust preserves), the user can access, print and electronically submit a hunter registration letter directly to the Trust, and also print the map of the Trust preserve which must accompany the registration letter. This self-registration process has replaced the prior mail-in registration process. In 2007, more than 3,000 hunters registered to hunt at Trust preserves.

The Trust's new website home page.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S ADDITION TO CROSSLEY

Through the generous donation of 248.5 acres from The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Chapter, the Trust's Crossley Preserve in Berkeley Township, Ocean County, grew to almost 3,000 acres in 2007. The donated lands consist of pine oak forest with areas of Atlantic white cedar swamp along the Davenport Branch and Jake's Branch, both tributaries to the Toms River which flows into Barnegat Bay. The donated lands provide critical habitat for the state-endangered corn snake and the state-threatened Pine Barrens treefrog and northern pine snake.

One of the Trust's premiere preserves, Crossley highlights important aspects of open space preservation: endangered species protection; historic and cultural sites; environmental education; and outdoor recreation. Crossley is named for the forgotten clay-mining town dating to the late 1800's. Clay dug from Crossley was used to produce brick, terra cotta and pottery. Surface pits that were dug to extract the clay now form dozens of ponds used for breeding by Pine Barrens treefrog. The old "donkey" railroad that was used to haul clay from the pits to waiting train cars along the former Pennsylvania Railroad now serves as a portion of the 1.5-mile Thomas F. Hampton interpretive trail at Crossley.

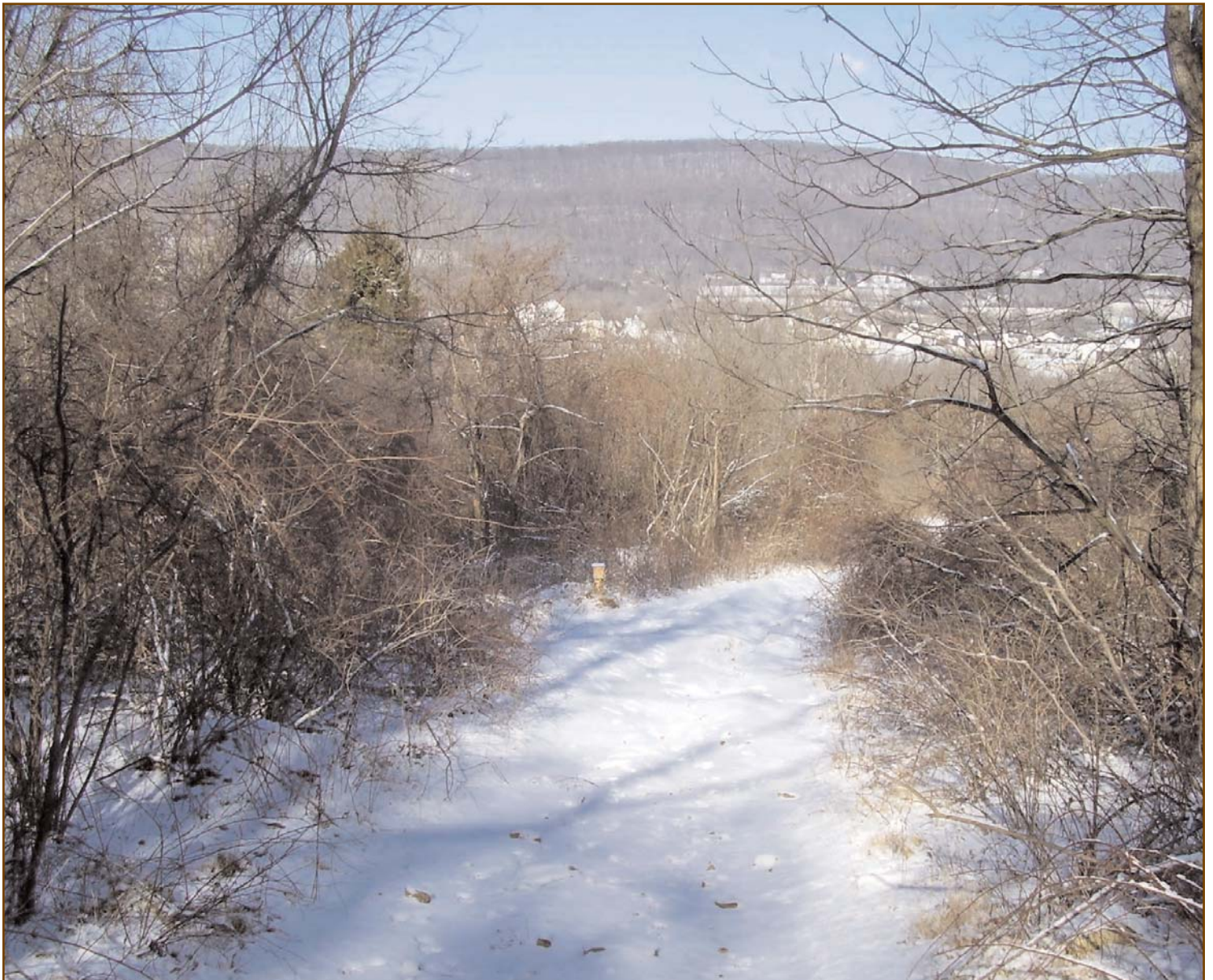


Crossley heather

NEW TRUST PRESERVE ~ BUTTERMILK BRIDGE

This new preserve, located in Franklin Township, Warren County, provides spectacular views of the Pohatcong River Valley. Protecting one of the higher mountaintops along the ridge of Pohatcong Mountain, Buttermilk Bridge Preserve is a heavily wooded tract of mixed hardwood forest that includes red and white oak, tulip poplar, basswood, sassafras and azalea. Though boulder size rocks cover the hillside ground, old stone walls attest to the site's agricultural past. Today the rich forest habitat yields a wonderful variety of spring wildflowers including the only known New Jersey location of the state-endangered Seneca snakeroot, a delicate flower of woodlands. In order to protect and buffer the Seneca snakeroot habi-

tat, the Trust has created a Project Area, within which it will pursue future acquisitions. The Project Area almost fully encompasses the Buttermilk Bridge Natural Heritage Priority Site. Natural Heritage Priority Sites are designated by the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program as critically important remaining habitat for rare plant species and ecological communities within the state. The Buttermilk Bridge Natural Heritage Priority Site is ranked B5VI. The V rank is a newly developed value, based on the global biodiversity rank combined with the state biodiversity rank to provide information about the significance of the site on a state level. VI is the highest state value rank and reflects outstanding significance at the state level.



Buttermilk Bridge

2007 List of Donors

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust gratefully extends its thanks to those who have donated land, funds, or services to the Trust in 2007 to help preserve and protect New Jersey's natural heritage.

Mr. Michael Blahut

Mr. Jim Ferguson

Mr. Aquilino Leo Villa

New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission

Ms. Lois K. Stewart in memory of Ms. Ursula C. Rosner

The Nature Conservancy-New Jersey Chapter



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

For more information about how you can make a donation to further the Trust's mission to acquire, preserve, and manage natural lands for the protection of natural diversity,

call 609-984-1339

or visit the Trust's website

at www.njnlt.org

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

The New Jersey NATURAL LANDS TRUST

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An 11-member Board of Trustees sets policy for the Trust.
Six members are appointed by the Governor from the recommendations
of a nominating caucus of conservation organizations, and five members are State officials.

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Theresa Lettman, Secretary/Treasurer
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