

# NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST

2014 Annual Report



*Preserving New Jersey's Natural Diversity*

## 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.

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Cover Design: Roman Senyk

Cover Photo of High Rocks: Martin Rapp

## Index of Preserves Referenced Within the 2014 Annual Report

### **Atlantic County**

Bearshead Preserve ~ 1  
Hamilton Preserve ~ 1  
Hirst Ponds Preserve ~ 1, 4  
Mankiller Preserve ~ 1

### **Burlington County**

Moorestown Preserve ~ 1

### **Camden County**

Petty's Island Preserve ~ 6, 7

### **Essex County**

Great Piece Meadows Preserve ~ 1, 10, 11

### **Hunterdon County**

Sweet Hollow Preserve ~ 1, 8, 9

### **Ocean County**

Crossley Preserve ~ 1, 12  
Warren Grove Bogs Preserve ~ 1

### **Sussex County**

Congleton Preserve ~ 1  
Hainesville Woods Preserve ~ 1, 13

### **Warren County**

High Rocks Preserve ~ 1, 5



**In 2014...** the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust brought approximately 1,208 new acres under Trust stewardship, making the Trust responsible for over 29,000 acres managed as a system of more than 120 preserves throughout the state.

One of the acquisitions creates a new Trust preserve--The **Hirst Ponds Preserve** in Galloway Township, Atlantic County. The remaining acquisitions were additions to the existing **Bearshead, Congleton, Crossley, Great Piece Meadows, Hainesville Woods, Hamilton, High Rock Mountain, Mankiller, Moorestown, Sweet Hollow and Warren Grove Bogs** preserves.

*Glimpses of a beaver pond through the forest at Congleton Preserve*



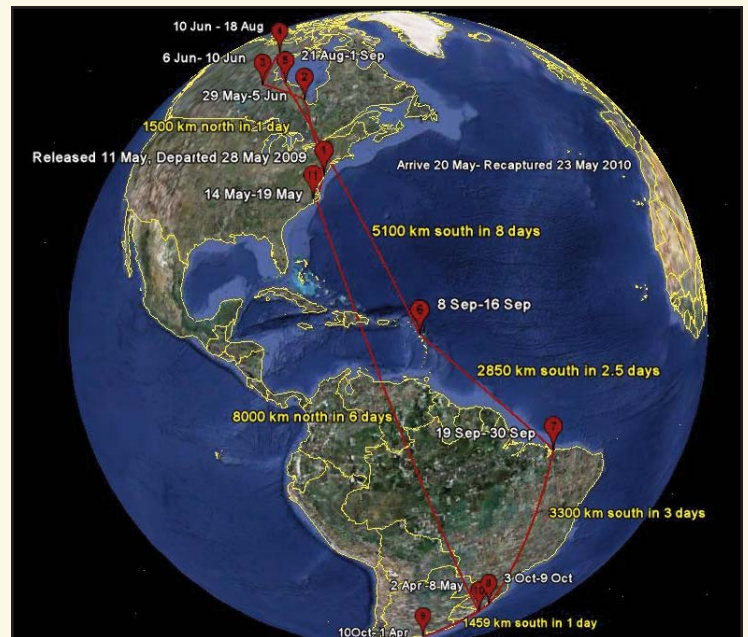
## Red Knots Listed But Still Threatened

**A**fter many months of speculation, on December 9, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) will be added to its list of federally threatened species. A “threatened” designation recognizes that the species is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. According to the Service, since the 1980s the red knot population has fallen by about 75 percent in key areas, including Delaware Bay and Tierra del Fuego.

While making the announcement, Service Director Dan Ashe remarked, “The red knot is a remarkable and resilient bird known to migrate thousands of miles a year from the Canadian Arctic to the southern tip of South America. Unfortunately, this hearty shorebird is no match for the widespread effects of emerging challenges like climate change and coastal development, coupled with the historic impacts of horseshoe crab overharvesting, which have sharply reduced its population in recent decades.”

The red knot’s incredible migration of nearly 20,000 miles includes a critical stopover along the Delaware Bay to refuel on horseshoe crab eggs. Since 2012, the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission has implemented an adaptive management framework that ties crab harvest levels to red knot populations. In New Jersey a horseshoe crab harvest moratorium has been implemented, which has helped to stabilize crab populations and facilitate red knot recovery.

When long-time red knot researcher Dr. Amanda Dey of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program informed the Trust of the red knot’s listing she noted, “Federal listing would not have been possible if not for the NJ Natural Lands Trust. The Trust came in early, recognizing the importance of the [Delaware] Bay long before over-harvest of horseshoe crabs threatened the shorebird stopover. The Trust increased its support when the harvest exploded, allowing biologists to



*Representation of incredible migration of Delaware Bay shorebirds from Canadian Arctic to the southern tip of South America*



*Radio-tagged red knots feeding along Delaware Bay*

gather data on impact to shorebirds and limit commercial harvest before crabs were completely decimated. This bought time for red knots.”

Dr. Dey added that “the Trust supported our large volunteer team allowing us to conduct a research effort unlike any in the world. Nearly 20 years of data have been gathered, the critical connection between shorebird weight gain and horseshoe crabs was proven, and the mechanism of red knot declines was clarified helping to explain declines in other Arctic-nesting shorebirds. Innovations developed on Delaware Bay--such as marking birds with engraved leg flags--mean population size and survival can be estimated and red knot recovery can be measured. Light-sensitive geolocators, deployed on Delaware Bay, allow us to see annual migration routes, stopover and wintering sites of red knots for the very first time. This information provides the basis for hemispheric protection of important shorebird areas.”



*Dr. Amanda Dey holding a laughing gull*

Exacerbating the existing habitat challenges for the red knot, the Delaware Bay beaches took a direct hit from Superstorm Sandy. Sandy essentially washed out Delaware Bay beaches. Even worse, the washout exposed a thick layer of muck strewn with old pilings, jagged pieces of concrete, and other

rubble placed by humans in an attempt to hold back the Bay, essentially leaving no place along New Jersey’s Delaware Bay shoreline for horseshoe crabs to lay their eggs. Stepping up to the rescue was an amazing public/private partnership that included the Trust and local public works agencies, state and federal wildlife agencies, multiple non-profit conservation organizations, academic institutions and concerned individuals with major grants being provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the NJ Recovery Fund (a consortium of private foundations administered by the Community Foundation of NJ), as well as additional funding from the Trust and the NJ Corporate Wetlands Partnership. Through this heroic united effort several miles of critical horseshoe crab and shorebird habitat were restored.

“This effort underscores the important role played by the Natural Lands Trust,” stated Michael Catania, Chair of the Trust. “As a unique public/private partnership, with members representing both environmental non-profits as well as public agencies, the Trust is uniquely qualified to help coordinate efforts to protect species like the red knot. We applaud this



*Delaware Bay shorebirds*

listing, and the Trust will continue to work with our partners to help restore the habitats needed by red knots and many other endangered and threatened species.”

So what does all this mean for the red knot? Even with the Service’s listing there remain many challenges to the red knot’s survival. To overcome these challenges more research, more education, and more conservation efforts are necessary. One key example is to support the use of alternative bait for conch and eel and further reductions of mid-Atlantic bait harvests of horseshoe crab. Another key action is to improve practices for collection of horseshoe crab blood--the precursor of the *Limulus ameobocyte lysate* (LAL) test. Lysate from horseshoe crab blood is used in this test, which is critical to detecting bacterial contamination in pharmaceutical products. Although horseshoe crabs are returned to the sea after being bled, 15 to 30 percent do not survive. A proprietary synthetic substitute for lysate does exist. However, LAL from horseshoe crab blood is the FDA standard, and it will likely remain so unless crabs decline further or demand for LAL rapidly increases, making a synthetic LAL more economically viable.

The Trust plans to continue to support red knot and horseshoe crab conservation efforts but its long-standing Delaware Bay Shorebird Fund is being quickly depleted. The fund, created in the 1990s, has supported much of what is known today about the red knot. As Dr. Dey has noted, “It is right



*Birds are weighed and measured by scientists during the Delaware Bay stopover*

to say that the federal listing, the new habitat restoration effort, and most of what we know about red knots in the Western Hemisphere\*, is a direct result of the Trust’s help and support.” The big challenge for the Trust is to find funding sources to replenish its Delaware Bay Shorebird Fund to continue this important support.

\*This is a partial list of the [numerous publications](#), masters and doctoral theses that were possible because of trapping efforts in Delaware Bay and Chile supported by the Trust.



*Lots of red knots*

# Hirst Ponds Preserve

In 2014 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) donated Hirst Ponds to the Trust as its newest preserve. The Hirst Ponds Preserve is approximately 375 acres and comprised of 22 separate tax parcels all located in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, some contiguous and others not.

TNC began acquiring land in the area in 1984 to protect a pair of large, high-quality coastal plain intermittent ponds. The smaller of the two ponds, to the north and known as Barkwoods Pond (so named for an adjacent pet kennel), contains occurrences of the globally imperiled, state endangered Hirst Brothers' panic grass, state endangered Boykin's lobelia as well as two other rare plants, rose-color coreopsis and mudbank crown grass. It is also known for a historic occurrence of the state endangered slender arrowhead. The larger pond, known as Labounsky Pond, sits at the southern end of the preserve and also contains occurrences of Hirst Brothers' panic grass, Boykin's lobelia and four other rare plants, rose-color coreopsis, mudbank crown grass, narrow-leaf primrose-willow and floating heart.

The two ponds on this preserve collectively contain two of only three known occurrences of Hirst brothers' panic grass in New Jersey. With the Trust's acquisition of the Hirst



*Walz monitoring Hirst Brothers' Panic Grass*

Ponds Preserve, all of New Jersey's populations of Hirst brothers' panic grass will be in public ownership. The species' presence is sporadic and has not been observed at Barkwoods Pond since 1992 and at Labounsky Pond since 2003. This is not surprising, however, given that coastal plain intermittent ponds are inherently variable, with plants responding to hydrologic changes so that many years, or even decades, may elapse before conditions are again suitable. The species was discovered in these ponds in 1958 by Frank and Robert Hirst and was described as a plant new to science in 1961. You can read more about the history of this rare grass in an article titled "[The Legacy of Hirst Brothers' Panic Grass](#)" by NJ Natural Heritage Program ecologist Kathleen Strakosch Walz.

In 1998 Hirst brothers' panic grass was added to the federal candidate species list, which means that it is a species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined warrants listing under the Endangered Species Act but awaits formal listing. Although Hirst brothers' panic grass will receive no substantive or procedural protection under the Endangered Species Act until formal listing, the Service encourages consideration of candidate species in project planning.



*A summer view of Hirst Ponds*



*A fall view of Hirst Ponds*

# High Rock Mountain Pinnacle Preserved

Perseverance equals preservation. For many years, the Trust and New Jersey Green Acres Program (Green Acres) sought to preserve the summit of High Rock Mountain overlooking Mountain Lake in Liberty Township, Warren County. This year, mostly due to the unflagging efforts of Larry Fink of Green Acres, we were able to add 122 acres to the High Rock Preserve with a good portion of it being the summit!

This new addition was acquired from the Mehl Family who had previously operated a mobile home park on a portion of the property. Prior to the state's acquisition, all vestiges of the mobile home park were removed and the now-vacant area along Tamarack Road serves as an informal parking area for the general public seeking to access open space in the area.

With the newest addition, the High Rock Mountain Preserve is over 200 acres and serves an important link in a chain of

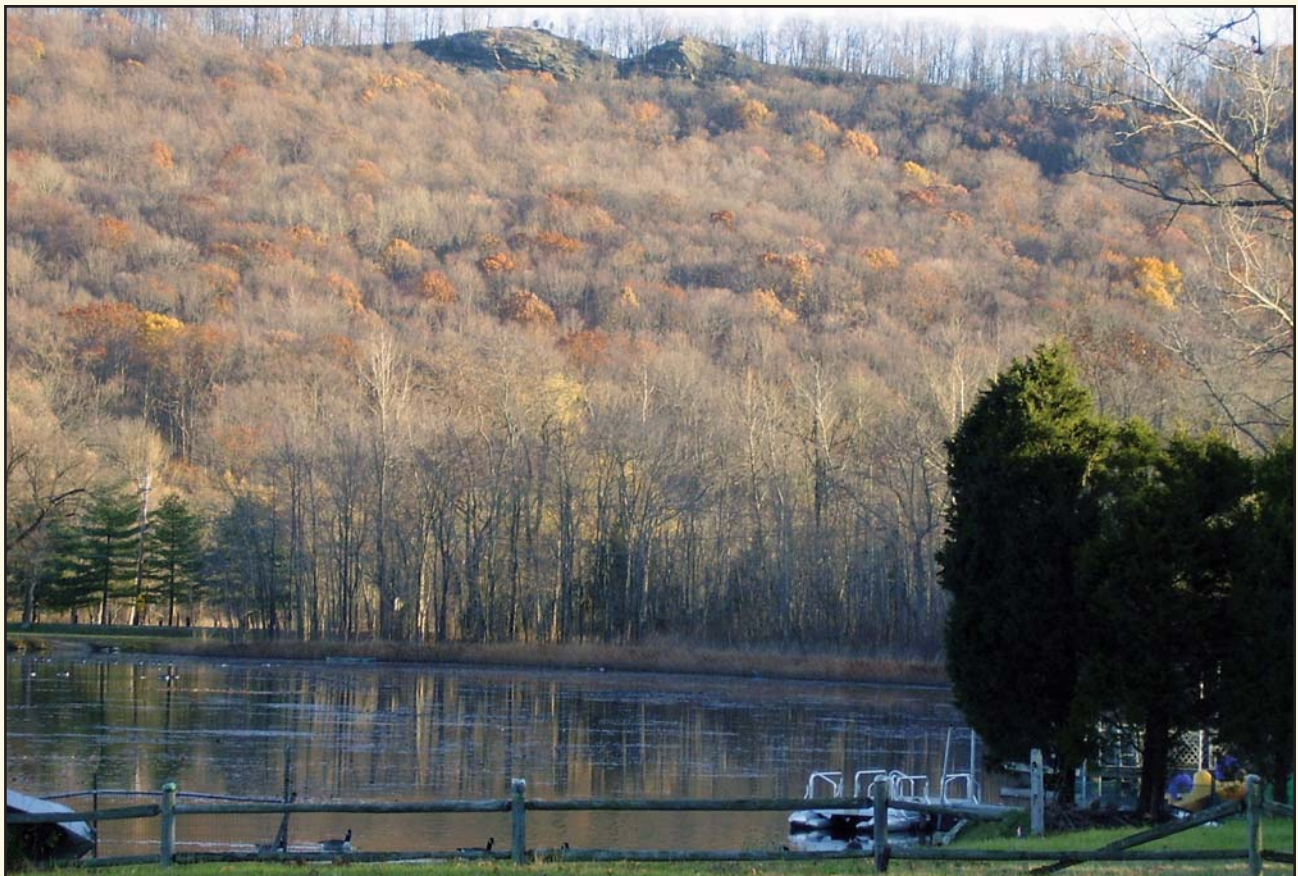


*Identifying plants at High Rock Preserve*

open space connecting a portion of the Jenny Jump State Forest to the Trust's 90-acre Mountain Lake Bog Preserve.

The Mountain Lake Bog Preserve protects a glacially-formed wetland that contains a calcareous fen providing habitat for rare plants as well as a black spruce and tamarack swamp. Interestingly, back in 2001 it was the very same Mehl Family that sold the state the portion of the Mountain Lake Bog Preserve that includes the calcareous fen. As is typical, this calcareous fen occurs at the base of a terminal moraine slope which traverses the High Rock Mountain Preserve.

Come enjoy a moderately difficult hike from the parking area at Tamarack Road through the boulder field forest up to the newly-preserved High Rock Mountain Preserve summit. The summit has rocky balds from which you can relax and enjoy scenic vistas of Mountain Lake and the surrounding area.



*A view of the High Rock Mountain summit from Mountain Lake*

# Petty's Island Update

Petty's Island Preserve became an even more interesting place to visit in 2014. The Trust installed 13 wayside exhibits along the trail at the southern portion of the island. These waysides tell some of the countless fascinating stories about the history of Petty's Island—stories of the Lenape, Quakers, Ben Franklin, William Cramp and, of course, Blackbeard. The waysides also highlight Petty's Island's diverse natural resources, from the mudflats to the wetlands to the forests, and the ecologically significant habitats they provide to numerous plant and animal species.

In 2014 the Trust again partnered with NJ Audubon Society (NJAS), along with its subcontractors Delaware RiverKeeper Network and Cooper River Watershed Association, to provide public and educational programming. In addition, NJAS coordinated a clean-up event where volunteers removed a significant amount of trash and debris from the eastern shore of the island. What is really exciting is that the cleaned-up shoreline has remained clean. We worried that daily tides would wash up new litter, but we are happy to report that's not happening!

One of the most popular NJAS programs is the Petty's Island History Walk led by Robert Shinn, who represents the Cooper River Watershed Association and Camden County Historical Society. The Philadelphia Inquirer followed up on his most recent walk with this story - [An enchanted island - in New Jersey](#). For information about upcoming programs, please check the [NJAS program page](#).

In addition to programming activities, NJAS has also started migratory and breeding bird studies on the island. This information will supplement the [2010 Petty's Island Plant and Animal Inventory](#) during which 141 different bird species were observed, 54 of which were found to be breeding on the island.

On February 21, 2014 the Trust and NJAS convened a Petty's Island stakeholders meeting to share the latest happenings at Petty's Island as well as to seek

input and ideas about educational, recreational and interpretative opportunities the island's extensive cultural, historic and natural resources may provide. We had a full house and lots of great ideas were exchanged. Everyone seemed excited for the Trust to explore the feasibility of the Crowley triple ramp structure as a possible location for the future Petty's Island Cultural and Environmental Education Center.

During 2014, at the request of Andy Kricun, Executive Director of the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority's (CCMUA), the Trust attended a number of stakeholder meetings about the CCMUA's 24-acre property across the channel from Petty's Island. In 2013 CCMUA generously donated a conservation easement in this property to the Trust as part of the Petty's Island Preserve, ensuring that it would not be developed other than for recreational or environmental education purposes. However, issues such as illegal dumping and off-road vehicle use continue to pose challenges to the preservation of the ecological resources on the property. The proximity of the nest of a breeding pair of bald eagles to the property heightens the need to protect the eagle and its habitat but limits the access needed to address some of the dumping and illegal off-road vehicle issues. The



*Group of students enjoying a field trip to Petty's Island*



stakeholder group is striving to find the right balance. Admirably, notwithstanding these challenges, CCMUA is committed to exploring ways to open the parcel up to passive recreational uses for the public's enjoyment.

Finally, the Trust continued its work with the William Penn Foundation on a vision to coordinate and strengthen the Delaware Watershed's regional system of existing and emerging environmental education and outdoor recreation centers, which would include the future Petty's Island Cultural and Environmental Education Center. The William Penn Foundation's generous grant to the Trust in the amount of \$87,500 has enabled the Trust to conduct studies which will help to expedite our ability to provide high quality access to the incredible natural resources at the Petty's Island Preserve.



*Waysides along a Petty's Island trail*



*Enjoying a fall hike along the trail at Petty's Island*

## Down In Sweet Hollow

# Gligore Farm Acquisition Keeps The Mountains Just As They Are

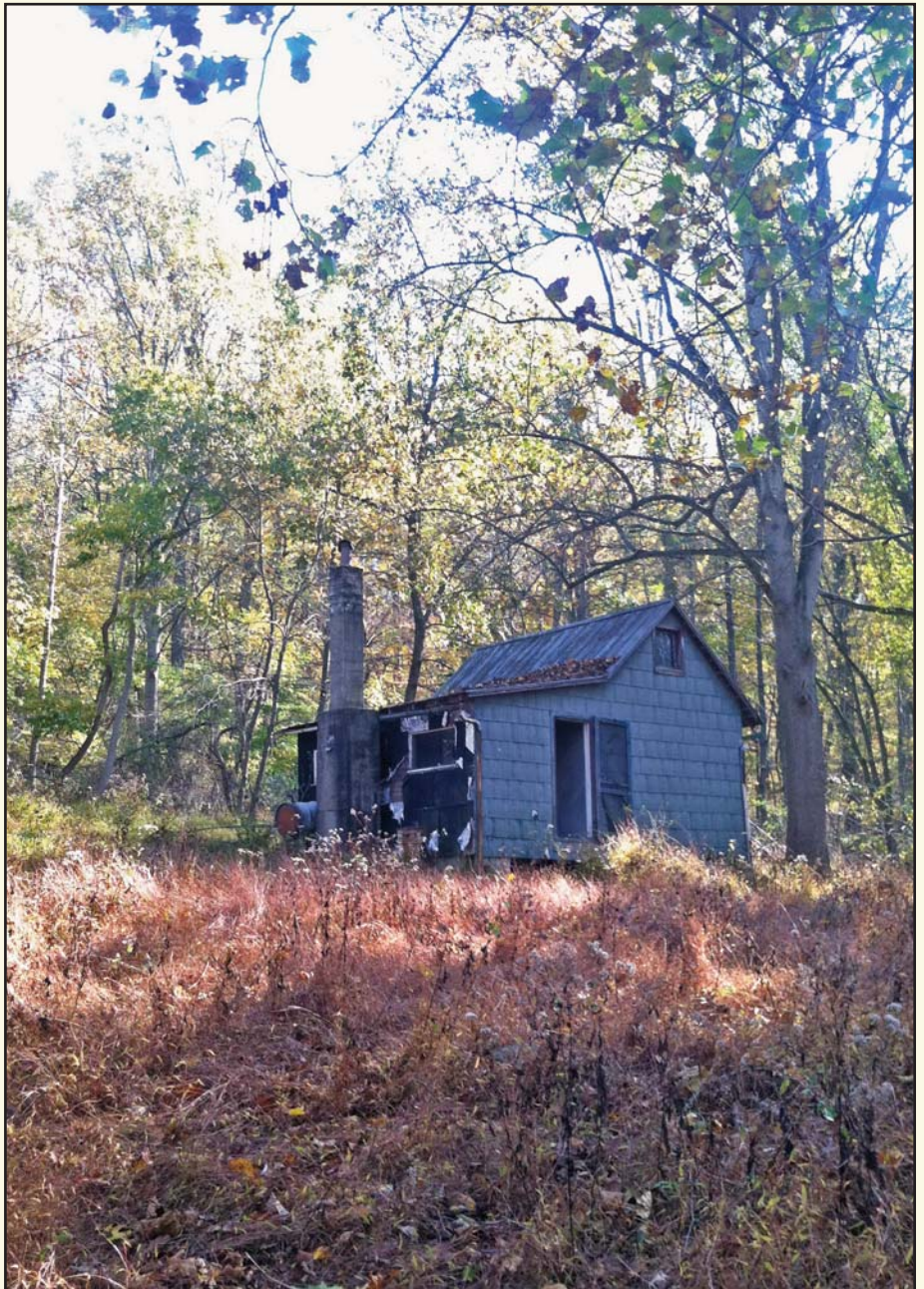
By Martin Rapp, Preserve Manager, New Jersey Natural Lands Trust

It was a thoughtful gesture for Mr. Melvin Wolock to donate an 11-acre parcel next to the stream by his house in 1994. But now 20 years later, it is easy to see how without the Trust's early involvement at Sweet Hollow the forested landscape and clear waters of Hakihokake Creek might be very different today.

Not much has changed in Sweet Hollow from the very early days of the early 20th Century when Sweet Hollow was a secluded country getaway for folks from the cities. Back then, small simple cabins or even platform tent sites were common on the mountainside and along the Hakihokake Creek that flowed through the narrow steep valley. Located in and amongst those cabins was a small cluster of cabins, houses and associated outbuildings: the Gligore Farm. It was here several generations of the Gligore family were born and raised. The farm likely originated around 1900 when a small house and a barn were erected. Water came from a dug spring. Pigs, goats, chickens and ducks were tended for food and income. In the early days, gathering of large stones and boulders served to create small pastures and areas of tillable ground. Eventually the piled stone walls outlining the fields helped to serve as a fence. This is the farm where Andy Gligore was born, was raised. As he hiked along wood trails and down dirt lanes he would learn the ways of the mountains that he came to love. Aside from service time in the U.S. Army during WWII, where he landed on Omaha Beach in the D-Day invasion at Normandy, France, Andy didn't stray too far from Sweet Hollow.

I first met Andy when he chased me down in his pickup truck. Stepping out of his truck, all

I remember was a waft of white wavy hair, a corduroy jacket, and a fusillade of cuss words. Explaining I was an employee of the State only poured gas on this fiery discussion. But things settled down to a reasonable tone soon after I mentioned the Sweet Hollow Preserve. He was particularly protective of his side of the mountain, and wasn't particularly welcoming to people from the city or the State.



*Andy Gligore's cabin before demolition*



*Door to Andy Gligore's old cabin*

Apparently, stories of neighbors' encounters with Andy were not too different from mine. Andy never married. He worked as a truck driver and with his earnings bought up more land on the mountain. He bought up adjacent family parcels and the land from the city folks who no longer came to vacation at their cabins in Sweet Hollow. He bought land along the streamside of Hakiokake Creek which he had to ford in his truck to get to his cabin. He built himself a small pond, where it's told he took a dip with a bar of soap on occasion.

I never met Andy again. By the time of his death in 2009, Andy had amassed a big chunk--25 acres--of beautiful mountain forest land. His niece Liz and great-nephew Errin Pesaresi now feel that for all his mountain gruff the preservation of the farm turned out the way Andy would have liked it to all along: just as it always was.



*Green Acres staff meeting with the property owner*

The piles and rows of scrap metal Andy collected but never turned in for cash are all cleaned up, along with the lifetime of odd possessions amassed from a depression era experience of make-due skills and old fashioned self-sufficiency. Even the cabin where he was born and the barn where the goats were penned are gone. But one last remnant remains hidden, deep in the woods. It's an old blue Studebaker Hawk, parked at the top of the mountain high above his old cabin. As told to me, Andy uncoiled a long wire from his TV, 500 feet up the mountainside to tie onto the Studebaker antenna. Sure beats a cable bill.

# Great Piece Meadows Preserve

## Biodiversity Inventory and Research after Twenty-five Years

For the past few years the Trust has taken on the task of performing a thorough biodiversity inventory of one selected Trust preserve every year. These inventories act as a baseline for natural resource information pertinent to each preserve: a complete list of plants, animals, and ecological communities on the property. Most importantly, it documents threatened and endangered species and their habitats. Biologists, botanists, ecologists and experts in other fields of natural history put many long hours on the ground exploring each preserve, seeking out species and recording valuable data in order to prepare a final report.

In 2014 the Trust selected the 1,777-acre Great Piece Meadows Preserve. Great Piece is a massive wetland system straddling a wide bend in the Passaic River located in Fairfield Township, Essex County, and Montville and Lincoln Park Townships in Morris County. Great Piece--like its "sister" regional wetlands Troy Meadows, Black Meadows and Bog and Vly Meadows--shares its ice age origins as part of ancient Glacial Lake Passaic. Other wetlands along the Passaic River, such as Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, illustrate the significance and preserve the value of these habitats.



*Great Piece Meadows*

Detailed survey of wildlife or plants at Great Piece Meadows had not been done in more than 25 years. Some early research studies pointed out how Great Piece was the “melting pot” for a unique New Jersey salamander species, the Tremblay’s salamander (*Ambystoma tremblayi*). “Twenty-five years ago, when I began my career as biologist with the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program, Tremblay’s salamander was classified as an endangered species,” said Martin Rapp, Preserve Manger for the Trust. Tremblay’s was recognized as a genetic hybrid cross between a blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*) and a Jefferson’s salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*). In New Jersey, Tremblay’s was only known from the Glacial Lake Passaic basin wetlands such as Great Piece. At the time it was thought that these same wetlands were the only known New Jersey location for the blue-spotted salamander. Blue-spotted salamanders have since been found outside of the Passaic basin. But herpetologists and geneticists still can’t agree if Tremblay’s is even a species at all.

During Mr. Rapp’s 25-year career much of the regional land use has changed. Pressures from development and industry and flooding impacts still continue or have increased. At the center of this dense development and industry, this thousand-plus acres known as Great Piece Meadows has remained relatively unspoiled. Jill Dodds of Biostar Associates, Inc. was hired to conduct the inventory. Jill recruited Elizabeth Johnson and Deborah Kratzer to assist with the work. Ms. Johnson did her graduate research on the blue-spotted salamander in the Passaic basin wetlands, so her experience was valuable. Their field work included hundreds of field hours turning logs for salamanders, spying into tree tops and across open meadows for birds or butterflies, and scanning the forest floor for a host of plant life. Special attention was paid to relocate known populations of species that had gone unseen for decades.

Of key interest was the sheer number of blue-spotted salamanders discovered during their study. These were found throughout the swamp under logs, in breeding ponds, and moving about on the forest floor during rainy spring nights. Curiously, however, aside from a single red-backed salamander, every salamander

found was blue-spotted. Other finds include a successful hunt for the state endangered Louisiana sedge (*Carex louisianica*). Until this survey only one small clump of the species was known from Great Piece--the only known clump in New Jersey--but. Biostar’s searching found Louisiana sedge growing far and wide at Great Piece Meadows, helping to secure the existence of this species in the State, for now. Newly documented were several stands and possibly the largest NJ record of the state-listed swamp cottonwood (*Populus heterophylla*). Also of interest were some spectacular stands of state endangered large water plantain (*Alisma triviale*). What wasn’t found is also noteworthy. No remarkable finds of birds or butterflies. No rookeries of great blue herons, marsh birds like American bitterns or rare species of butterfly. As Albert Einstein put it, “If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?”



Preparing for Great Piece Meadows biodiversity inventory

# Trust Makes a Clean Sweep of Illegal Dumping

The woods can look so nice as the autumn leaves fall. It's a delight to see bright colors of red, gold, brown strewn across the landscape. Visitors to Trust preserves often enjoy hiking in the fall, just to experience these vivid colors. And when they do they should expect no less than a positive experience with nature.

However, the colors of trash and litter are not true to nature. No one likes to have their experience blemished by unsightly litter and trash left behind by the inconsiderate, disrespectful and unlawful few. It should not be too much to ask that individuals and businesses legally dispose of their trash and debris. But some simply can't be bothered.

Piles of trash are an all too common a sight on our public lands and open spaces. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has begun the "[Don't Waste Our Open Space](#)" initiative to reverse the problem of illegal dumping on our parks, forests, wildlife management areas and Natural Lands Trust preserves. The Trust is an active partner in this important effort.

In 2014 the Trust conducted four cleanups on its preserves. Some cleanups were big, some small, but each time the cleanup improved a preserve for both visitors and wildlife.



*Helping hands at Crossley cleanup*

Recently volunteers and workers from the Trust, New Jersey Audubon Society and Conserve Wildlife Foundation met in the pine forest of the Trust's Crossley Preserve to begin a cleanup of many years worth of debris. A 30-yard dumpster could hardly contain the pickup truck loads of old carpet, lumber and construction waste collected from throughout the forest. Piled next to the dumpster were 75 tires. Pulled from the woods and wetlands, these tires when filled with stagnant water are ideal breeding areas for biting, infecting mosquitos. In total, even with volunteers, it cost the Trust over one thousand dollars to collect and remove this debris. We can all agree that this money and time should have been put to a better purpose.

The NJDEP Don't Waste our Open Space initiative includes State Park Police and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers to enforce laws against dumping. The Trust was able to provide State Park Police with names and addresses found within a waste pile on its Four-Mile Branch Preserve in Gloucester County. After collecting the needed evidence the Park Police made a case and caught the dumpers. Fines and penalties soon followed.

Boy Scout Troop 2010 from Hardwick Township, Warren County helped with a cleanup at the Trust's Hardwick Meadows Preserve, this time by a different offender. Perhaps resulting from a careless mistake, black bears caused quite a mess while rummaging through homeowner's trash cans. Living in bear country comes with responsibility. The neighbor's poor handling of trash provided the bear with an unhealthy meal which the bruin dragged through the wetlands and woods, scattering garbage all along the way. Neighbors, Boy Scouts and Township officials all got involved to see this problem corrected and cleaned so it shouldn't happen again. Using Hardwick Township's Clean Communities funds, the Boy Scouts scrambled into thickets only a bear might get into. After the cleanup the Troop donated their Clean Communities grant earnings towards another worthy neighborhood cause. The Trust is grateful for the willingness and call to action of the Boy Scouts to help improve the appearance of the Hardwick Meadows Preserve.

To help keep our eyes open on preserves, in 2014 the Trust purchased a remote trail camera to assist with catching dumpers. Secretly mounted, the camera automatically emails images of vehicles and dumpers directly to the Trust's office. Use of the camera is just another way to monitor illegal activities so enforcement authorities can respond even more quickly, 24 hours a day. If you observe trash or dumping activity on a Trust preserve or other public open spaces contact call 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).

# Hainesville Woods – A New Step in Protecting Biodiversity

For many years the New Jersey Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) worked across the state to identify and acquire properties that were critical in the protection of habitat for state endangered and threatened species. TNC did an excellent job in acquiring, monitoring and managing these properties for a wide range of unique plants and animals, but has begun to shift their resources and expertise to assist governments and other non-profits with a regional, landscape approach for protection of biodiversity. As part to this shift in focus, TNC has been re-evaluating their land holdings with an eye towards transferring selected preserves to other conservation groups. TNC has viewed the Trust as an obvious choice to take over management of preserves with rare and endangered plant species, and the Trust has been eager to oblige.

Hainesville Woods Preserve, as it will now be called, is one such example. For decades TNC worked to acquire the

176-acre tract comprised of many adjoining properties. Collectively, these protect an extensive parcel of mature hardwood forest. When combined with adjoining woodlands of the much larger Stokes State Forest this massive forest provides habitat for wide ranging animals like bobcat and black bear. Hermit thrush and many warblers like the solitude of the interior forests. The forest also protects an important headwater for the Big Flatbrook, recognized as one of New Jersey's premier trout streams.

Upon visiting the Hainesville Woods Preserve it is striking to see the extensive system of old stone walls built generations ago by early settlers. The landscape has long since reforested and now these walls lie darkened under the shade of tall oaks, maples and hickories. The Trust will continue the important plant monitoring efforts initiated by TNC and will carry on protection of the rarest and richest of biodiversity in New Jersey.



*A sunny winter day at Hainesville Woods.*



*One of the many stone walls throughout the Hainesville Woods Preserve*



## Thanks to Our Volunteers

**T**he Trust would like to acknowledge and thank its many volunteers for their invaluable contributions to the maintenance of Trust preserves. If you are interested in becoming a Trust volunteer monitor or attending a workday, please contact the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust at 609-984-1339, or email [NatLands@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:NatLands@dep.state.nj.us).

## Donations

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust gratefully extends its thanks to the following who have donated land, funds or services to the Trust in 2014 to help preserve and protect New Jersey's natural diversity

### **Atlantic County**

**Camden County Historical Society**

**CITGO Petroleum Corporation**

**Clean Communities Program of**

**Hardwick Township, Warren County, NJ**

**Conserve Wildlife Foundation**

**Covanta Camden Energy Recovery Center**

**Duke Farms**

**Estate of Richard Sclaroff**

**DEP Endangered and Nongame Species  
Program**

**Herpetological Associates, Inc.**

**William Penn Foundation**

**Boy Scout Troop 2010, North Warren, NJ**

**The Nature Conservancy**

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, please call 609-984-1339.

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





*"Peregrine Falcon"*



*"Gentian"*

## Stefan Martin Prints for Sale to Benefit the Trust

In 1984, the Trust commissioned a series of limited edition prints created exclusively for the Trust by New Jersey wood engraver Stefan Martin. Each of the three prints highlights an object of the Trust's preservation efforts: the State-endangered Peregrine Falcon, titled

"Peregrine Falcon;" a northern New Jersey stream habitat titled, "Morning Stream;" and a grouping of three Pine Barrens Gentian, titled "Gentian."

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 202 "Peregrine Falcon," 125 "Morning Stream," and 17 "Gentian" prints.

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



*"Morning Stream"*

# The New Jersey NATURAL LANDS TRUST

## Board of Trustees

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

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**Michael Catania** (Chairperson), Executive Director, Duke Farms

**James Hall** (Vice Chairperson), Executive Director, Palisades Interstate Park Commission

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

**Richard Boornazian**, Assistant Commissioner, Natural and Historic Resources, New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection

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

**Steve Eisenhauer**, Natural Lands Trust, Inc.

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

**Matt Spayth**, Office of Management & Budget, New Jersey Department of Treasury

**Larry Torok**, Division of Land Use Regulation, New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection

**Judeth Yeany**, Green Acres Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Vacant** – State House Commission Member

## Staff

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