



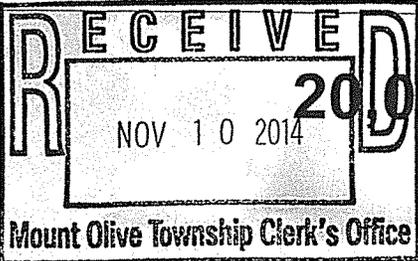
OUTDOOR ISSUES

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News from The Land Conservancy of New Jersey

November 2014



20,000 Acres and Counting...



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is celebrating! By preserving more than 1,200 acres already in 2014, we have reached the major milestone of preserving 20,000 acres of open space in New Jersey! Stretching across the state – from the Highlands to the Delaware River, we have protected a wide variety of properties in our nation’s most densely populated state. What do these 20,000 acres mean for the residents of the Garden State? It means we have permanently preserved land that protects New Jersey’s water resources. It means we have land preserved for hiking, biking, and recreation. It means we have protected land for local food production. And it means we have open space where wildlife can thrive. As Conservancy members, partners, and supporters each of you has played an important role in ensuring that this land is permanently protected for our enjoyment and for generations to come. We want to take a moment to share some of our success stories with you to give you a taste of the excitement of preserving land and why we do what we do!

Land that Protects Water

One of our primary concerns remains a plentiful supply of high-quality, clean water. In an effort to ensure that clean water enters our largest drinking water reservoirs, The Land Conservancy formed a coalition of public agencies, including the regional water suppliers, to preserve land in the Wanaque and Monksville Reservoirs in Ringwood. Michael Restaino, Executive Director of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, called the initial purchase of a 52-acre property of critical watershed land, “the first step working within this historic partnership to conserve land and help protect water quality supplies.” Ringwood Borough Mayor Joanne Atlas added, “The acquisition of this parcel of critical watershed land represents an important

step toward assuring a sustainable source of safe, clean drinking water.” Since then, The Land Conservancy has preserved an additional 400 acres in this critical region.

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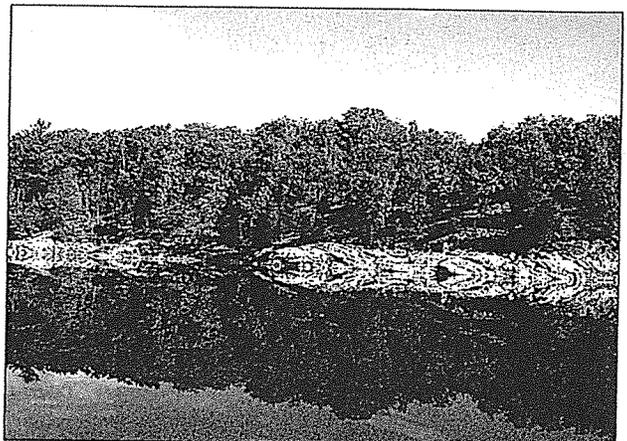


Photo by Ron Farr
The Wanaque Reservoir is the largest water supply system in New Jersey, serving more than 2 million people.

Outdoor Issues is published by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 to preserve land and water resources, conserve open space, and inspire and empower individuals and communities to protect land and the environment.

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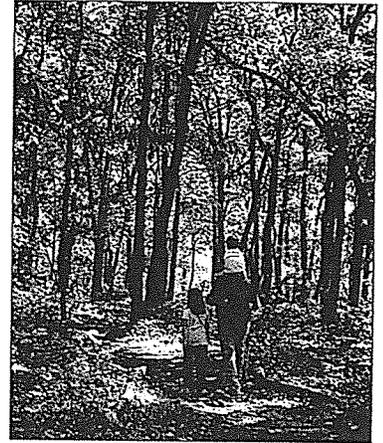
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(20,000 Acres continued from page 1...)

Land for Exploring

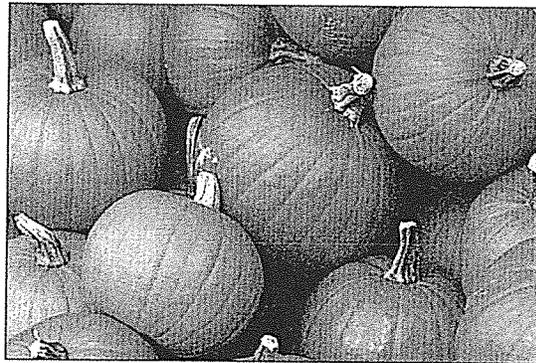
Over the years, The Land Conservancy has added land to numerous municipal, county, and state parks as well as natural areas and wildlife management areas. We have made 11 additions, totaling more than 1,100 acres, to Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Area in Rockaway Township alone! Along the Fanny Highlands Trail Network at Wildcat Ridge you can locate Revolutionary War iron mines as well as stone walls and cellar holes from early farmsteads, check out the bat cave or beaver pond, and take in an incredible vista with a spectacular view of the New York City skyline at the Hawkwatch, which The Land Conservancy preserved in 1999. Raptors love to cruise the thermals along this ridge, and if you pick the right time of year, you can view the raptor migrations from this overlook.



The Fanny Highlands Trail Network consists of three separate hiking trails, Four Birds Trail, Splitrock Loop Trail, and Beaver Brook Trail.

Land for Farming

The very first property The Land Conservancy ever protected was the 100-acre Araneo Farm in Washington Township. Preserved on January 15, 1997, The Land Conservancy secured a farmland preservation easement just before an application for development was made to the Washington Township Planning Board. The Morris County Agriculture Development Board noted that saving the Araneo Farm helped



New Jersey ranks in the top 10 nationally for production of fruits and vegetables such as: blueberries, cranberries, peaches, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins.

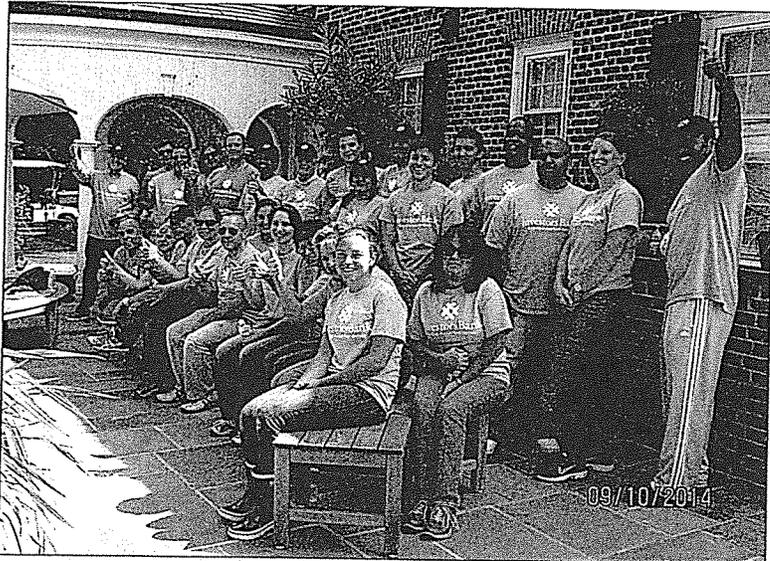
“establish a new front for farmland preservation in Washington Township’s Fairmount District” as farming is at the heart of Washington Township’s local economy. We have preserved two additional farms in this community - the Clapp farm in 2002 which adjoins Hacklebarney State Park and the Lillis farm atop Schooley’s Mountain in 2008. These farms are part of the 4,000 acres of farmland The Land Conservancy has preserved to date and are key components of the state’s agricultural economy.

So, why do we do what we do?

Why do we choose to live where we live? Is it so that we can hop on a train and get to work in the city? Is it so we can sit on our back porch and watch our children play in the yard? Is it so we can get to the best schools? Best restaurants? Closest parks? Perhaps it is one of these, or it is all of these amenities? At The Land Conservancy we embrace everything that makes New Jersey a unique, busy, active, and wonderful state. This our home, and we have worked hand in hand with our members and partners to preserve the best of New Jersey for all of us. Land for exploring, land to protect our water, land to ensure we have local fruits and vegetables at the market, land for wildlife, and open space for people today and for generations to come. We could not have done this without all of our partners and supporters. Thank you for helping to make it happen and sharing in our success. We look forward to the next 20,000!

Warm winter wishes
 for an enchanted
 holiday season

Partners for Parks Program Celebrates 500th Project Completed



Volunteers from Investors Bank completing the 500th Partners for Parks project at Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills.

The Land Conservancy's *Partners for Parks* program celebrated its 500th project at Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills, with employees from Investor's Bank. Twenty-seven volunteers, from five different branches, spent the day weeding a variety of garden areas and removing invasives like Japanese stiltgrass. They also cleared fallen branches and other debris and spread wood chips in several garden areas.

The *Partners for Parks* program was developed in 1996 and puts teams of volunteers from area corporations to work on one-day stewardship projects. Over the past 18 years, *Partners for Parks* has improved 110 properties in 10 counties with more than 8,500 volunteers from more than 90 corporations and businesses.

Investors Bank has done thirteen *Partners for Parks* projects. "Every employee loves working at the parks and with The Land Conservancy," said Thomas McMinn, vice president and market manager at the Succasunna branch. "It boosts morale and camaraderie, building a bridge between different departments and branches of the company, while building a better rapport with the communities we serve by demonstrating our commitment and team spirit at Investors."

"The *Partners for Parks* program helps create stewards and informed advocates for open space on the individual, community, and corporate levels, and it has been a wonderful way for corporations and organizations to give back to their communities," stated Conservancy Project Manager Barbara McCloskey.

Partners for Parks is made possible in part by the generous support of our Corporate Sponsors. Our Corporate Sponsors for 2014 include:

- BASF
- Merck
- Roundtable Services
- The Daily Record
- Novartis
- United Water
- Investors Bank
- PSEG

New Trails Opened in Madison Borough

National Trails Day was celebrated with excitement in Madison Borough as the newly completed trails at the Madison Recreation Center were opened to the public. As Mayor Robert H. Conley noted, "It was a great day for a walk in the woods!" Building upon trails that had been designed and constructed as part of a local Eagle Scout project, The Land Conservancy worked closely with the members of the Madison Recreation Center Master Plan Committee to design a loop trail that fit into the natural landscape and offered opportunities for residents to enjoy the woodlands adjoining the Recreation Center off of Ridgedale Avenue.

The Land Conservancy brought a team of volunteers from BASF Corporation to clear the brush and blaze the trail on 39 acres within the Recreation Center. The trail extends from the parking lot through a beautiful grassy knoll into a former orchard and then swings down a slight embankment into the woodlands. New trails signs were posted along the trail and future plans include the construction of boardwalks over the wetlands and the erection of a deer enclosure fence for future restoration of the native forest on the property. The high school cross country team will be using the trail for its training runs this fall.

Borough Engineer Bob Vogel and Councilwoman Astri Baillie spearheaded the trails project with the leadership of Committee Chair and Borough Council President Robert Landrigan. Preserved in 2008 with The Land Conservancy's assistance, the Madison Recreation Center is the premier outdoor recreational facility in the municipality, with a number of playing fields, a thriving community garden, and an innovative design for stormwater management, which includes the installation of a number of rain gardens interspersed within the parking facilities. With the addition of the trails, the Borough fulfills its promise to create a diverse, multi-use facility for its residents to enjoy.



Investing in Our Future Environmental Leaders

2014 Scholarship Winners Announced

As Benjamin Franklin put it “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” What does it mean to invest? To invest simply means to use, give, or devote time, talent, or even money to achieve something. The Land Conservancy of New Jersey’s Scholarship program is an investment in the future. Both the Russell W. Myers and Rogers Family Scholarships were named after avid conservationists who believed that investing in education would bridge the gap between the past, present, and future of land preservation.

The Land Conservancy is pleased to announce Rebecca Wolf, of Hamilton, was awarded the 2014 Russell W. Myers Scholarship and Michael Endicott, of South Plainfield, was awarded the 2014 Rogers Family Scholarship. Each student received \$7,500. Since 1984, The Land Conservancy’s Scholarship program has awarded \$201,750 to 48 outstanding New Jersey college students studying in an environmental field, helping to develop New Jersey’s future environmental leaders.

The Land Conservancy awards two scholarships yearly.

The Russell W. Myers Scholarship was established in 1983 to honor our founder. The late Mr. Myers was the first director of the Morris County Park Commission and served for a quarter of a century, developing one of the finest park systems in the nation.

The Rogers Family Scholarship was established in 2005 by Gray and Mollie Rogers, dedicated conservationists who wanted to expand the Conservancy’s educational support for outstanding conservation-minded New Jersey college students. Gray Rogers is a past Conservancy Chairman of the Board.

Applications for the 2015 Scholarships will be available at www.tlc-nj.org on January 1, 2015.

Rebecca Wolf is a junior majoring in Environmental Science, Law, and Society at American University in Washington, D.C. In addition to being a stellar student, she is the Grassroots organizer and Outreach Intern for the Food and Water National Watch headquarters in D.C. Since 2012 Rebecca has served as the Deputy Director of Environmental Policy for Water Sustainability in Student Government. There she advises the student government on water related issues that they can support and become involved with on campus. She is also the Fossil Free American University Campaign Leader whose goal is to divest the university’s endowment from fossil fuel companies. As the Student Government Director of Socially Responsible Investing, she hopes to align the university’s values with its investments. In the past, she has worked with the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative to map constituent resources and environmental quality along the Raritan River.

“I am incredibly grateful to such a wonderful organization for awarding me the Russell W. Myers Scholarship. I am excited to use this scholarship to help me continue my studies and further my understanding of environmental issues and conservation efforts in and around New Jersey.”

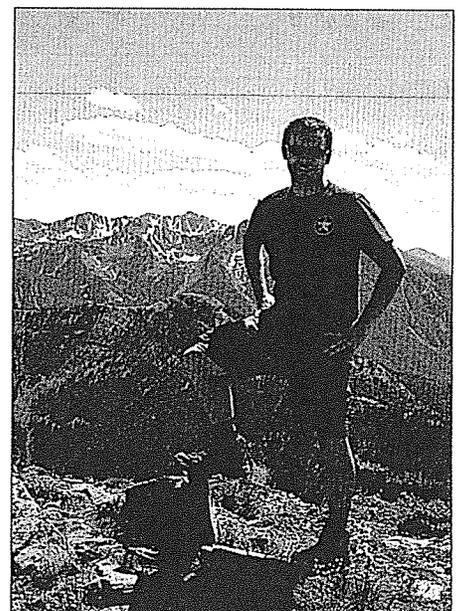
Rebecca Wolf

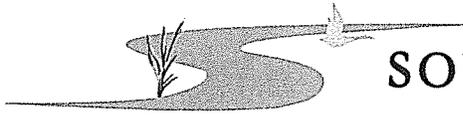


Michael Endicott is a senior majoring in Geography at Rutgers, the State University New Brunswick campus. In addition to keeping a nearly perfect GPA of 3.9, Michael has served on the Rutgers University Student Assembly where he has been concurrently elected to represent student interests. He is also acting President of the Rutgers Undergraduate Geography Society. Michael has interned with the Edison Wetlands Association (EWA) where he conducted studies of the state’s most toxic contaminated sites and analyzed GIS data to identify tracts of land most suitable for open space designation.

“I have committed myself to addressing the most pressing environmental issues New Jersey faces. Central to this commitment is my education, and the 2014 Rogers Family Scholarship has ensured that I can expand on my understanding of environmental issues and the skills needed to address them. It is heartening and humbling to receive The Land Conservancy of New Jersey’s support in my endeavors.”

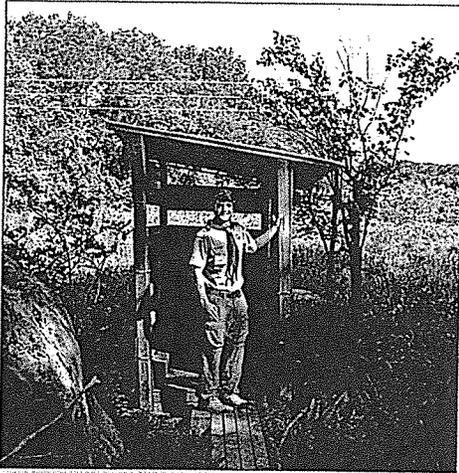
Michael Endicott





SOUTH BRANCH PRESERVE

Scout Installs Wildlife Blind

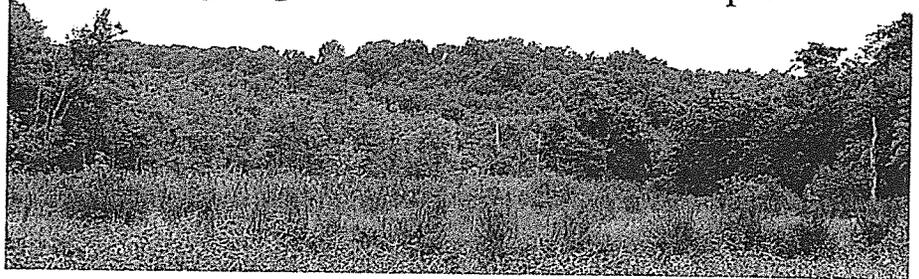


There is a beautiful marsh nestled within South Branch Preserve that hosts muskrat, mink, various reptiles and amphibians, as well as many species of birds located surprisingly close to busy Route 46 in Mt. Olive Township. Johnny Madras, of Long Valley Boy Scout Pack 236, built a wildlife blind at the edge of this marsh to earn his Eagle Scout award. Three-quarters of a mile of the South Branch of the Raritan River flow through this property and the marsh where the new observation blind is located.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Requirements include an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. "The purpose of creating a wildlife observation blind is for people to observe the various wildlife species that frequent this site," said Johnny. "Building the wildlife blind at the marsh was challenging. Most of my initial plans needed to be revised to construct it properly. I am proud of it and appreciate all the help my fellow scout volunteers, family, and (Conservancy Stewardship Manager) Mr. Briede contributed to the project. My reward was watching a blue heron on the river one morning. I hope many people will enjoy observing nature there."

To reach the wildlife blind, park at the South Branch Preserve parking lot located on Wolfe Road in Mt. Olive and follow the woodchip pathway towards the Community Garden. Once at the Garden, follow the mowed path along the deer fencing until you see the sign for the wildlife blind (about one-eighth of a mile away). Let us know what wildlife you encounter! Post your photos with the hashtag #SBWildlifeBlind.

State Insect Lab Provides Reinforcements in the Ongoing Battle with the Color Purple



The South Branch Preserve in Mt. Olive Township was created by The Land Conservancy in order to protect the headwaters of the South Branch of the Raritan River, a drinking water supply source for over 1.5 million New Jersey residents.

During a summer inspection of the Preserve, Land Conservancy Stewardship Manager Dennis Briede noticed a significant increase in the amount of purple loosestrife in the freshwater marsh area. It is hard to imagine something so beautiful has the potential to be so destructive, but purple loosestrife can take over preventing the marsh from performing its important functions, so the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture (NJDA) was contacted to help with the management of this purple invader.

Mark Mayer, NJDA Supervising Entomologist, recently visited South Branch and he came bearing gifts: 3,750 leaf-eating beetles. "The damage to the state's wetlands is in the purple loosestrife's displacement of native flora, which is essential for food and cover to native wildlife," Mr. Mayer and his co-authors explain in their Annual Report. "It can also decrease the water storage capacity of a wetland, reduce the ability of the wetland to attenuate floods, clog drainage channels and irrigation ponds, and reduce the capacity of a wetland to hold and absorb excess water."

A non-native immigrant to the U.S., the potentially tall, leafy perennial arrived from Eurasia in the early 1800s and is now found in all our contiguous states except Florida. The cost of controlling and recovering forage from this invasion of purple loosestrife is \$45 million a year.

The State's Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory has been busy rearing *Galerucella* beetles and releasing them to combat the spread of purple loosestrife. According to their 2013 Annual Report, the Lab has released over 2 million beetles statewide since 1997. This beneficial insect program has reduced the purple loosestrife coverage by 70% statewide and reduced the average plant height from approximately six and a half feet to three feet.



Monitoring Water Quality on the South Branch

The Land Conservancy is pleased to announce that we have formed a partnership with Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) to monitor the stream conditions at South Branch Preserve. Each summer a team of RHA staff members and local volunteers collect samples of the benthic macro-invertebrates (insects whose presence indicates a stream's health) at over 50 sites along rivers in Hunterdon, Morris, and Somerset Counties.

After a visual assessment, samples are collected at each site to determine macro-invertebrates, dissolved oxygen (DO), acidity (pH), temperature, and conductivity. The samples are analyzed by a state-certified laboratory to assess water quality and stream ecosystem health. Sites may be classified as non-impaired, moderately impaired, or severely impaired. When biological monitoring indicates an impairment, the staff at RHA investigates local land uses and conducts further testing to better understand the problem, then works with landowners and local officials to address any problems.

If you are interested in volunteering to monitor South Branch, please contact Stewardship Manager, Dennis Briede, at dbriede@tlc-nj.org or (973) 541-1010 x12.

3rd Annual PEDAL FOR PRESERVATION



Over 350 bicyclists gathered at West Morris Central High School in Chester early on June 22nd for The Land Conservancy's 3rd Annual Pedal for Preservation event. They explored one of New Jersey's most scenic rail-trails while supporting the protection of vital land and water resources in our state.

The Land Conservancy staff, volunteers, and corporate sponsors worked hard to create a fantastic experience for hundreds of people from all over New Jersey, from experienced cyclists to novice riders and families. We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors: PSEG, Platinum Sponsor; BASF, Gold Sponsor, and Round Table Wealth Management, Bronze Sponsor.

Proceeds from Pedal for Preservation benefit The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. It's a great way to have fun while helping to protect New Jersey's clean water supplies, rolling farmland vistas, untouched wildlife habitat, and remaining forested mountains for clean air, hiking, and recreation. Visit www.tlc-nj.org/ride to read more and see pictures from the day.

Mark your calendars! Next year's date will be Saturday, June 6th



Highlands Hawks Soar to Success

The Land Conservancy's birding team, The Highlands Hawks, soared to success raising \$14,000 for The Land Conservancy when they competed in the *World Series of Birding* on May 10th. They identified 133 different species of birds within a 24-hour period in the Limited Geographic Area Category, Sussex County. The event, sponsored yearly by the New Jersey Audubon Society, raises awareness of New Jersey's strategic importance to migrating birds and helps organizations like The Land Conservancy raise money, thanks to the generous pledges and support from our members, to protect natural habitats.

The Conservancy would also like to thank Lexus Regional office in Parsippany for donating the use of a vehicle for the day. And finally, a big thanks to our volunteer birders, Clif Miles, Stephen Kloiber, Dan Altris, and Rick Wiltraut for making the "Big Day" a big success! Read more about their 24-hour trek at www.tlc-nj.org/wsb.

A Perfect Day for Golf: 2014 Gray Cup

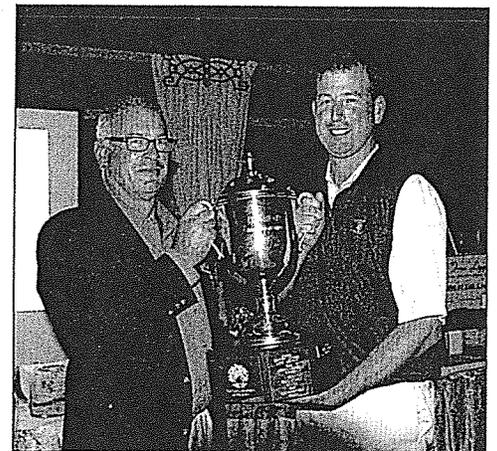
A resounding cry of "It's a perfect day for golf!" was heard repeatedly as golfers registered for The Land Conservancy's 6th Annual Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic held on September 15th at the acclaimed Ballyowen Golf Club in Hamburg.

The Gray Cup is named in honor of past Conservancy Chairman of the Board and dedicated conservationist Gray Rogers. The event is The Land Conservancy's largest fundraising event.

"We appreciate the generous support from our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who work all year to make this event a great success," said David Epstein, President of The Land Conservancy. This year's sponsors included Investors Bank, McCarter & English, LLC, Round Table Services, Dixon Energy, AllianceBernstein, CSG Partners, and The Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Congratulations go out to Sam Partridge of Chatham the 2014 Gray Cup winner by a match of cards. "I have been fortunate to play in the Gray Cup for several years and it is a wonderful event for a unique and worthy cause. As usual, this year's outing was a great day of golf and camaraderie on a beautiful course at Ballyowen. I'm thrilled to be associated with the Gray Cup and proud to have my name added to the list of champions. Looking forward to next year already!" said Sam.

During the evening program, we were honored to present The Rosalie Lavinthal Volunteer of the Year Award to Russ Arlotta and the employees of PSEG. "PSEG is honored to work with and support The Land Conservancy's conservation work. Thank you for this terrific award," said Russ Furnari, Manager of Environmental Policy Enterprise, who accepted the award on behalf of PSEG.



(left) Conservancy Chairman of the Board Rory Corrigan and (right) 2014 Gray Cup winner Sam Partridge

Visit www.tlc-nj.org/golf to read more and see pictures from the day.

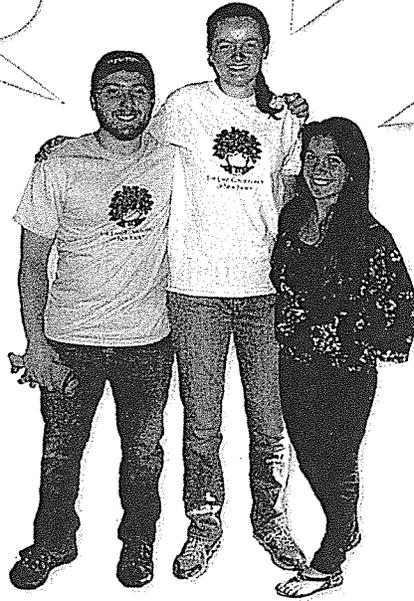
Summer Interns Get Hands-On Experience

"I wanted to intern at The Land Conservancy of New Jersey because of their active and aggressive campaigns to preserve and manage the open space of New Jersey. The efforts of The Land Conservancy have a huge impact on this state and I wanted to be a part of that."

"I'm honored to be working with The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, especially in an internship close to home," explains Rachel. "Having lived in Mount Olive my whole life, it is great to be working on a project that will make a huge difference in my community."

"Interning at the Land Conservancy of New Jersey is an incredible opportunity for me to get my feet wet in my field of interest, but it also lets me see how much hard work and dedication go into the preservation of places that initially drew me into the environmental field. It's really inspiring and eye-opening to see the work that has been and is being done to make my home state as beautiful as I know it can be."

Three exceptional students joined our staff as interns during the summer and shared their knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm for the outdoors, energizing our programs and projects! Rachel Smith, Ian Difalco, and Hayley Diverio are local students who spent their summer learning about land conservation and land stewardship.



(left to right) Ian Difalco, Rachel Smith, and Hayley Diverio

Rachel Smith, of Mt. Olive, was our first Rubenstein School Intern - a new partnership between The Land Conservancy and the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. This internship offers local students the opportunity to gain hands-on land management experience improving lands in New Jersey. "This collaboration between the Rubenstein School and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is extraordinary. The opportunity for Rachel to work with such a great organization and dedicated staff is invaluable. We are confident that she, a strong student and community member, will also contribute to The Land Conservancy Team," stated Interim Dean of the Rubenstein School Jon Erickson.

A freshman at University of Vermont, Rachel has been part of the Greening of Aiken internship program there, which includes providing environmental education for her fellow students

about sustainable living practices at the school. Using her experience as President of the Mt. Olive High School Environmental Club allowed Rachel to apply her leadership skills in working at the Community Garden at South Branch Preserve this summer.

Ian Difalco of Randolph Township is entering his Junior year at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in Syracuse and joined our staff as our Stewardship Intern. He has volunteered with the Morris County Park Commission and Furnishing Solutions in Morris Plains. He is a member of the Syracuse University Outing Club organizing and participating in various outdoor-based trips including mountain biking, backpacking, mountain climbing, and white water rafting. Ian is majoring in Sustainable Energy Management.

Hayley Diverio is completing her senior year at University of Delaware where she is a scholar-athlete and a member of the Varsity Women's Rowing Team. She has participated in their Blue Hen Leadership Program as Emerging Leader and is now part of their Established Leader program. A resident of Andover Township, Hayley is majoring in Environmental Studies with a Concentration in the Environment, Society, and Sustainability.

An Intern's Day is Never Dull

Land management is a dirty business... With mud flying, our 2014 recipient of the Richard M. Sargent, Jr. Internship Award, Greg Cooper, withstood the elements and became a true "Environmental Trailblazer" (as he was called by the the Daily Record!). Greg is a graduate of Drew University and began work with The Land Conservancy following his service as an Environmental Education Volunteer with the United States Peace Corps stationed in San Estanislao, Paraguay. At The Land Conservancy Greg helped develop plans for an organic farm at South Branch Preserve, completed an inventory of the municipal trees in Montville, and worked on a variety of Environmental Resource Inventory reports for local communities. He has been accepted to the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University where he will

begin his graduate studies this fall.

The award is named in memory of former Conservancy Trustee Dick Sargent. The internship was established with a generous gift from the Sargent family, as well as donations to a memorial fund in Mr. Sargent's memory.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working at The Land Conservancy and have learned an incredible amount in my time here," explains Greg. "I am very appreciative of the staff for their friendliness and patience in teaching me the intricacies of what they do. I feel that I have accomplished a great deal and have had fun along the way. My work here has enabled me to learn more about land preservation and the environment while taking the next steps for my future in the environmental field."

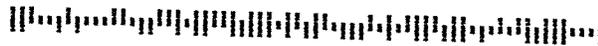




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*It's a Wonderful Time
 of Year to Honor
 Your Friends and Family*

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey welcomes gifts in honor of those people you wish to recognize. This is a wonderful way to express your admiration while protecting New Jersey's unique natural beauty. For every Honor gift, the Conservancy will send an acknowledgement to the honoree and the gift will also be recognized in the Conservancy newsletter - Outdoor Issues.

If you would like to make a gift in honor of someone, please contact Barbara McCloskey at (973) 541-1010 x14 or bmmccloskey@tlc-nj.org.

