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cc: Adam

# THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

# OUTDOOR ISSUES



## SCHANZLIN FARM PRESERVED

The Schanzlin Farm is a 79-acre family-owned farm in Harmony Township. It produces a variety of agricultural products on a rotational basis including cattle, corn, soy, wheat and hay.

Preservation of this farm was a priority as it lies next to the Merrill Creek Reservoir property, and joins over 1,120 contiguous acres of preserved land in this part of the county.

“It has been a pleasure working with the Schanzlin family and Harmony Township on this important farm in the Warren County farmland landscape.

The preservation of this farm, and others like it, within this

impressive preserved farm belt will help keep farming viable in this part of northern New Jersey and will ensure the rural character of Harmony Township and western Warren County will be retained,” said Aaron Cela, Land Preservation Specialist of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

We helped preserve the Schanzlin Farm along with funding from the State Agriculture Development Committee, Warren County Agriculture Development Board and the Township Open Space Trust Fund.

## OAKLAND FLOOD BUYOUT SUCCESS



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey has helped more than 30 towns to preserve their important green spaces.

In 2013, we began working with Oakland in Bergen County to create a Flood Acquisition Plan. The targeted homes in this project are all located within a flood plain and have catastrophically flooded in the past. With our assistance, the Borough is purchasing these homes, demolishing them and adding the parcels to the adjacent Truman Field Park, thus removing vulnerable people from harm’s way and creating public access to the Ramapo River.

Our work with Oakland jumpstarted Bergen County’s flood mitigation program and we are now working with five more towns - New Milford, Fair Lawn, Westwood, Garfield and Lyndhurst - in 2016.



The Land Conservancy  
of New Jersey

Spring 2016

**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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Please direct inquiries to:

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey  
19 Boonton Avenue ♦ Boonton, NJ 07005  
Ph: (973) 541-1010 Fax: (973) 541-1131  
www.tlc-nj.org

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Without much snow, or really much winter to speak of, The Land Conservancy is jumping into spring with a variety of events and exciting projects to get you more involved in the outdoors and to give you an in-depth look at our innovative projects.

Our World Series of Birding team, the Highlands Hawks, will take to the road on May 14 to find as many bird species as possible. Your support of this effort helps us raise funds to preserve the habitat that these species need to survive. We hope you will join us for an amazing bike ride along the Columbia Trail for the fifth annual Pedal for Preservation, a wonderful ride with great pizza and entertainment afterward! The trail showcases many of the important lands we have helped preserve from the seat of your bicycle.

If you enjoy gardening but don't have the space, you can lease a plot in our community garden at the South Branch Preserve in Mount Olive. Join other gardening enthusiasts who enjoy sharing their expertise, seeds, recipes and successes. If the warmer weather has you thinking of golf, please make plans to join us for our eighth annual Gray Cup Golf Classic in the fall. If you are a serious road rider, join The Land Conservancy's Team Preservation at the Gran Fondo in Morristown on September 11. Join our team and choose your ride of 18, 42, 62, 75 or 107 miles!

We will also be leading more tours of our preserves to introduce you to some of the remarkable areas that we are now restoring. We invite you to see the native forest we are restoring at the South Branch Preserve, hike with us to the Hawkwatch - land we preserved 17 years ago with its magnificent vistas of New York City, and tour the waterfall at our new Pequannock Watershed Preserve in West Milford.

The next time you surf the internet, we hope you will visit our new website. With its fresh look and updated content, the site features many photos and regular updates to keep you informed about what is going on in the world of land preservation and stewardship in New Jersey. You will find notifications about tours we will be giving of some of our preserves and restoration sites that can give you more insight into the exciting work your organization is doing. We also hope to unveil a new Land Conservancy logo later this spring.

I thank you for your support for The Land Conservancy and the work we do. We hope you will come out and spend time with us in the great outdoors this year while doing the things you love and helping us preserve more of these remarkable natural places.

David Epstein, President

# GET MORE FROM THE LAND CONSERVANCY AT TLC-NJ.ORG

The new website features a fresh new look and plenty of information on everything The Land Conservancy offers!

- Explore our preserves with photos, maps and history
- Stay up to date with our blog
- Get involved with our upcoming events and other volunteer opportunities



## SHILOH FARM PRESERVED



Shiloh Hill Farm, located in Frelinghuysen Township along the northern slope of Jenny Jump Mountain, has been preserved!

Shiloh Hill Farm is rich in history and has been owned by the Berry family since 1947. The farm offers stunning views of the Kittatinny Ridge and its rolling hills frame the Delaware Water Gap along the western horizon.

Warren County also assisted with the preservation of the farm. "The Freeholders and I are pleased to have helped preserve Shiloh Hill Farm. We thank Frelinghuysen Township and the State Agriculture Development Committee for their funding assistance, and we also thank The Land Conservancy of New Jersey for all their hard work on this project. The Berry family deserves special thanks for choosing to preserve their land for future generations," said Corey

Tierney, Director of Land Preservation for Warren County.

"It gives me great pleasure to see the continued success of Frelinghuysen's Farmland Preservation program. Preserving the Shiloh Hill Farm secures a historic, scenic and agriculturally important piece of property from future development," said Frelinghuysen Mayor Christopher Kuhn.

Member and donor's support make it possible for us to purchase critical farmland in the state. Shiloh Hill Farm was preserved with a farmland easement under Frelinghuysen Township's Municipal Farmland Program with additional funding support provided by Warren County and the State Agriculture Development Committee.



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*Our work at the South Branch Preserve is helping to address larger social issues like health, nutrition, declining pollinator populations, and sustainability, all on permanently preserved land.*

## **BUTTERFLY MEADOWS AT THE SOUTH BRANCH PRESERVE**

At our 209-acre South Branch Preserve North in Mount Olive, we have planted 7,305 trees and shrubs on 37 acres of former corn fields, restoring these to native forest and providing a buffer for three-quarters of a mile of the South Branch of the Raritan River.

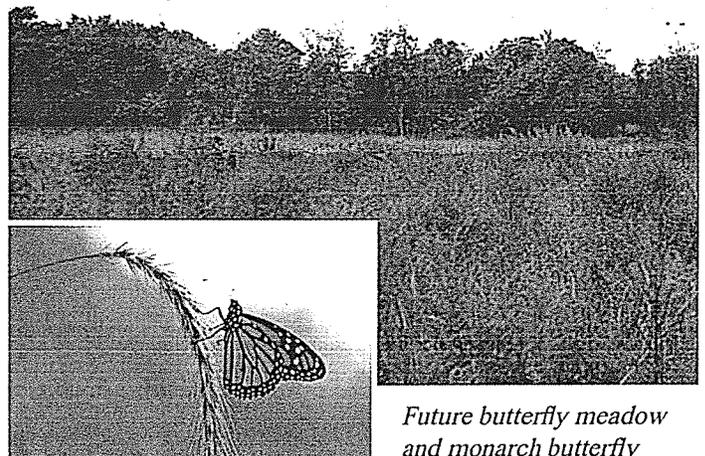
Our next project at the South Branch Preserve is the Butterfly Meadow Restoration on the fields adjacent to Route 46. Native pollinator populations such as bees, hummingbirds and butterflies are rapidly dwindling across the country. The monarch butterflies have been dramatically impacted by the decline of native habitat, including milkweed that is necessary to help them lay their eggs and complete their four-generation migration across the continent.

To help with the declining population, we are partnering with ArcheWild to harvest native wildflower seeds, including milkweed specific to the South Branch bioregion. Together, we will plant these seeds and restore former corn fields into visually stunning meadows that will create essential habitat for all of the pollinators, including the monarchs.

We plan to install trails throughout the meadows for public access and enjoyment as well as a butterfly

camera that will allow people to tune in from anywhere in the world and monitor the butterflies.

Our work at the South Branch Preserve is helping to address larger social issues like health, nutrition, declining pollinator populations, and sustainability, all on permanently preserved land. Our Butterfly Meadow Restoration project is an exciting next step, and we could not do it without our members.



*Future butterfly meadow and monarch butterfly*

## **PLANNED GIVING: LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT**

Leave a lasting legacy of open land, clean water, and preserved habitat. Name The Land Conservancy of New Jersey in your will through a bequest or as a beneficiary through other planned giving and ensure we pass this legacy down to future generations.

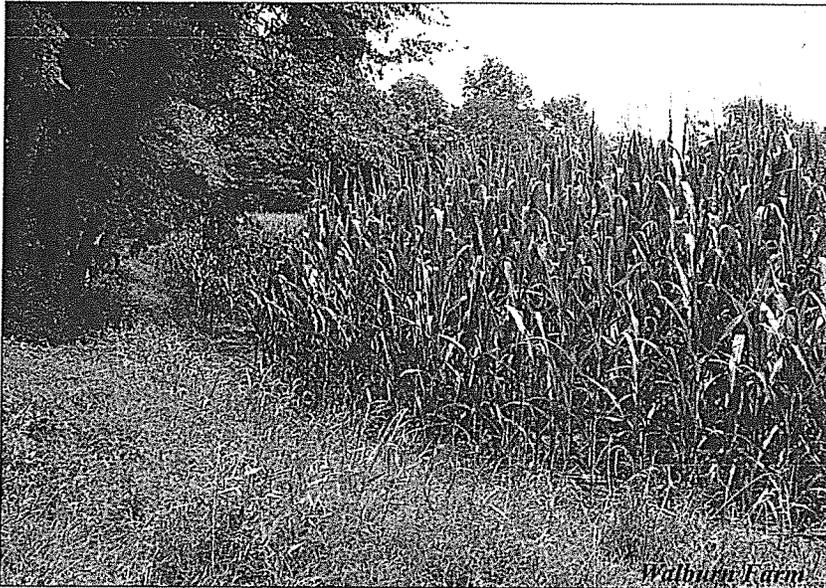
Imagine the difference you can make in the lives that follow. A legacy gift preserves your land forever and allows you to take advantage of tax benefits associated with charitable giving. You can benefit through reduced capital gains, estate, and income taxes.

We hope you will think of us as you review your real

estate plan. Creating a bequest in your will, or naming The Land Conservancy as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy are among the ways you can benefit The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

By making a planned gift, you will join other visionary donors who are helping to secure the future of precious lands and water for all to enjoy.

To make sure your goals for your gift are achieved, please contact Christi Kobus Rokicki, our Director of Development, at 973-541-1010 ext. 25



## WALBURN FARM PRESERVED

The Walburn farm is an active hay farm nestled in Warren County's agriculture farm belt. The farm is adjacent to the preserved Demeter Farm, and will be part of a preserved land belt that extends into Harmony Township.

The farm was preserved as cost-share through White's State Agriculture Development Committee Municipal Planning Incentive Grant, White Township Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and the Warren County Development Board Program.

"It's a privilege to contribute to New Jersey's Farm and Open Space preservation. I'm happy to see that the farm will remain in agricultural use for generations to come," said John J. Walburn Jr.

## NEW JERSEY GARDENING TIPS

- **Sunlight!** Choose an appropriate size and site for your garden. The most important consideration is the amount of sunlight.
- **Drainage!** Low-lying areas tend to collect water after heavy rains. These areas can be improved by raising the planting bed. This is done by digging paths four to six inches deep to promote drainage using the soil removed to raise the bed.
- **Produce!** Vegetables that do well in northern New Jersey include asparagus, snap beans, cucumbers, eggplants, peas, peppers and of course, tomatoes.

*Do you have a gardening question? Email us at [info@tlc-nj.org](mailto:info@tlc-nj.org) and get an answer from our staff naturalist or garden manager!*

## MONROE TWP. COMMUNITY GARDEN

We often assist towns with grant applications, including the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions grant, used to help local communities complete open space projects.

In 2014, Monroe Township received a grant and has worked with us to plan and implement a new community garden.

The Community Garden, which makes up five acres of the local park, features 100 ten-foot by ten-foot plots where residents with green thumbs tend to their own gardens and dedicated plots for fresh vegetables grown for donations to the Monroe Township Food Pantry.

A group of citizens helps organize and maintain the program, and plots sell out quickly at the start of each season.

"We are thrilled with our very successful community garden. We are building Phase 2, which includes 86 additional garden plots, and have sold most of them. We recently held a meeting that was attended by 102 people and we have a great group of volunteers who manage the program. It could not have happened without The Land Conservancy's assistance," said Harold Klein, Assistant to the Administrator, Township of Monroe.

# FAMILY FUN AT THE 5th ANNUAL PEDAL FOR PRESERVATION

Sign up now for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedal for Preservation, Saturday, June 18, 2016!

Cyclists of all ages and abilities are invited to hit the trail and help raise money to preserve and protect New Jersey's land and water resources. Pedal for Preservation is ideal for families and outdoor enthusiasts. Participants are urged to ask friends and family to sponsor their ride to raise funds to help support our work.

An off-road route on a flat, canopied trail makes this ride ideal for both avid and casual cyclists. The historic Columbia Trail, a former rail line that stretches from Washington Township in Morris County to High Bridge in Hunterdon County and is managed

jointly by the Morris and Hunterdon County Park Commissions, has since been preserved as a flat, multi-use recreational trail and provides great opportunities for walking and biking.

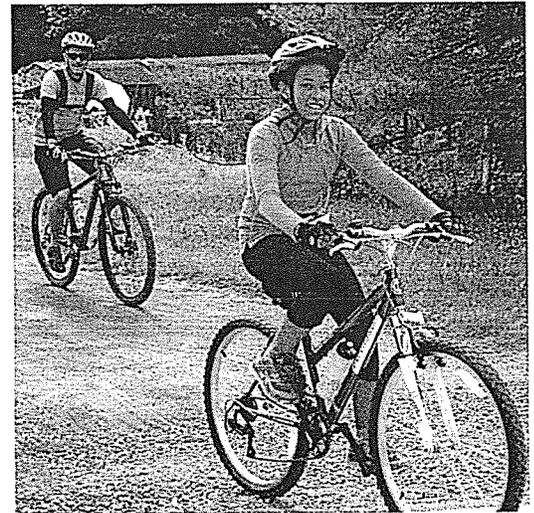
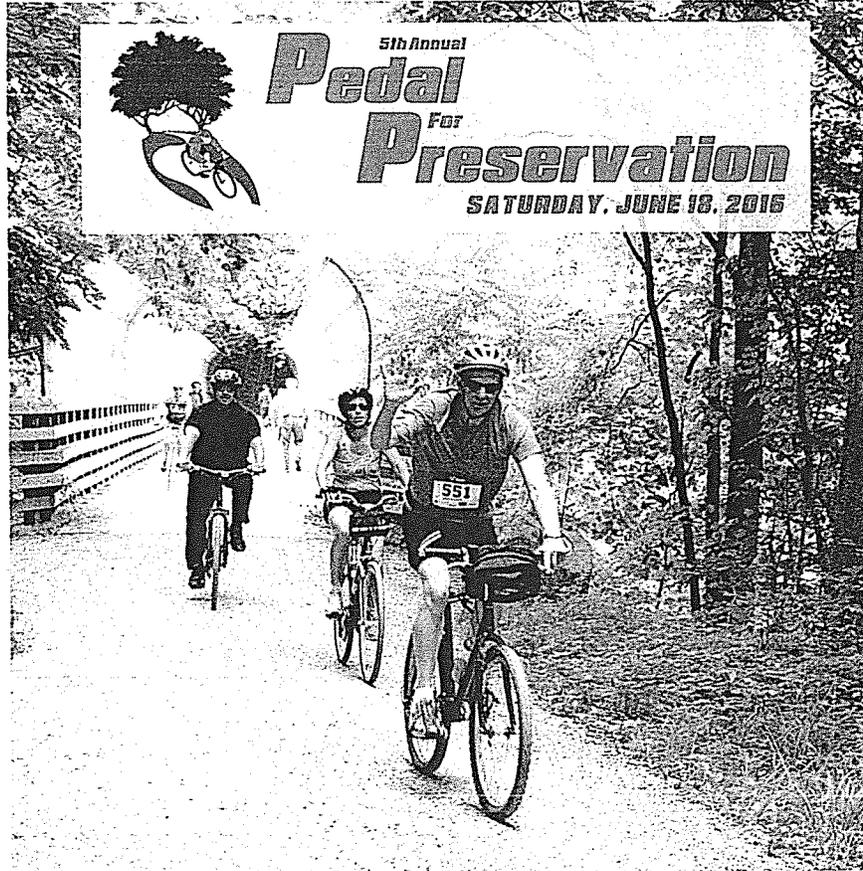
Riders will cycle along the south branch of the Raritan River and

pass through forests, farmland, a gorge and more — magnificent scenery that makes the trail one of the most popular and highly-rated recreational areas in New Jersey. There is also a guided two-hour hike option for non-cyclists.

The ride is well supported with food, drinks, rest stops along the way, bike techs to adjust a misbehaving bike, a support system to pick up a weary rider, police officers posted at critical road crossings and live musical entertainment at the high school.

The ride launches from West Morris Central High School in Chester where the riders head out in staged departures for round-trip rides of 30, 20 and 7 miles.

To register go to our website: [tlc-nj.org/ride](http://tlc-nj.org/ride)



## GRAN FONDO NJ



Ride with Team Preservation in GRAN FONDO NJ on Sunday, September 11, 2016!

Gran Fondos, which are to cyclists what a marathon is for runners, have become the most popular mass-participation events for cycling enthusiasts in North America. The Gran Fondo NJ ride offers a choice of route lengths (107, 75, 62, 42, and 18 miles) and timed hill segments.

“Team Preservation launched its first Gran Fondo Team in 2015 with a great ride! We had eight enthusiastic participants who rode all the various route lengths, with two team members riding the challenging 107-mile course. It was fun to meet up at the rest stops, and the after party in Morristown was a great place to relax, eat lunch and listen to a local band. We hope to double the size of our team this year and have a kick-off event to start training early and enjoy the scenic routes that pass properties The Land Conservancy has helped preserve,” said Kaki Pierson, Team Preservation Captain and member of The Board of Trustees.

Gran Fondo NJ is more than just a bike ride, it is a food festival and expo with activities and entertainment for the entire family to enjoy while raising funds to help preserve the landscapes you love.

*For more information, go to [tlc-nj.org/fondo](http://tlc-nj.org/fondo)*

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GRAY CUP INVITATIONAL GOLF CLASSIC

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is privileged to host the 8th Annual Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic on September 28, 2016!

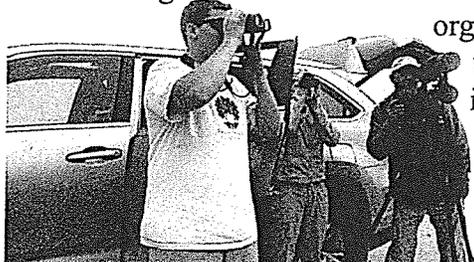
The Classic is named in honor of Gray Rogers for his many years of outstanding service. Gray served for 10 years on The Land Conservancy’s Board of Trustees including three years as Chairman of the Board. During his tenure, Gray had a remarkable impact on the organization, and has always had a passion for the outdoors and the natural world.

Dedicated conservationists and long-time supporters, Gray and his wife Mollie established The Land Conservancy’s Rogers Family Scholarship in 2006 to provide scholarships to deserving college students from New Jersey pursuing careers in an environmental field. Since then, seven scholarships totaling \$45,500 have been awarded!

*For more information, go to [tlc-nj.org/golf](http://tlc-nj.org/golf)*

## HIGHLANDS HAWKS’ 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING

The 2016 World Series of Birding “Big Day” is on May 14! Organized each year by the New Jersey Audubon Society, The World Series of Birding is a contest where skilled birders compete as teams to see who can record the most species of birds in one day while raising thousands of dollars for conservation



organizations, and taking a critical inventory of migratory bird species.

Over 60 teams

participate throughout the state, including our own Highlands Hawks, in this environmental treasure hunt. Top-placing teams have sighted one-third of all of the species of birds known in North America, right here in New Jersey - in one day.

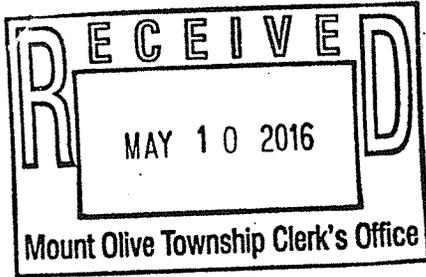
Every species the Highlands Hawks spots helps The Land Conservancy of New Jersey preserve more land and protect critical habitat and wildlife, the heart of our work. Last year, the World Series of Birding raised over \$18,000 for The Land Conservancy.

*Visit [www.tlc-nj.org/birding](http://www.tlc-nj.org/birding) to make a donation and support The Highlands Hawks*



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