



Hike the Clyde Potts Reservoir

One of the best ways to appreciate the natural landscape is to take a hike in one of New Jersey's beautiful open spaces. Clyde Potts Reservoir is one of those special places located in Randolph and Mendham Townships in Morris County. The trail head and parking for this hike is on Old Brookside Road in Randolph, on the west side of the road, approximately 3/4-mile from Woodland Avenue or 1/4-mile from Sussex Turnpike. Trail blazes are white as this trail is known as the "Patriots' Path Connection" and is part of the Morris County's Patriots' Path trail system.

On Sunday, July 17, 2011 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. this hike is being led by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey with Mendham and Randolph Townships. Leaders will reveal how the property was preserved, who Clyde Potts was, and why this property is such a gem of open space. It is an easy to moderately strenuous hike and people of all ages are welcome.

Mr. Clyde Potts, for whom the Clyde Potts Reservoir is named, served as Mayor of Morristown for over 20 years (between 1922 and 1948) and was the project engineer for the reservoir project. In 2002 The Land Conservancy joined the two towns, the Morris County Park Commission and the Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (SMCMUA) to protect this land, totaling 964 acres. The linchpin to the deal was the preservation of 60 acres of the largest privately owned, undeveloped properties in the Clyde Potts Watershed. The properties had been planned for intensive development, a proposal that would have threatened the quality of water in the Clyde Potts reservoir, which is owned and operated by the SMCMUA. The Land Conservancy, Randolph and Mendham agreed to purchase the properties in exchange for the SMCMUA selling a conservation easement on its 904 acres.

Clyde Potts, the largest Morris County reservoir serving Morris County residents, provides drinking water to Morristown, Morris Township, Hanover and Morris Plains. Because the great majority of drinking water supplied to Morris County residents emanates from groundwater, protecting surface water is critical for maintaining a balanced, long-term supply. Clyde Potts is among the most pristine water supply reservoirs in New Jersey, due to the fact that the SMCMUA owns 75% of the watershed. The preservation of the Clyde Potts watershed also resulted in a five mile expansion of Patriots' Path. Much of this section of Patriots' Path will also be designated as the Liberty-Water Gap trail, a federally designated "Millenium" trail that will connect Liberty State Park to the Delaware Water Gap.

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is celebrating its 30th anniversary as a non profit member supported organization dedicated to preserving and protecting New Jersey's vital natural lands and drinking water resources. To date, The Conservancy has helped preserve over 18,000 acres and helped towns receive more than \$216 million for their land conservation projects. Accredited by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2009, The Land Conservancy joins organizations nationwide who meet the highest quality standards for protecting open space, upholding the public trust, and ensuring that our conservation efforts are permanent. For more information, please visit our website at www.tlc-nj.org or call (973) 541-1010.