

THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

OUTDOOR ISSUES

FALL 2019

22,000 POUNDS OF PRODUCE GROWN AT CITY GREEN FARMS

The partnership between The Land Conservancy and City Green was established in 2018. City Green Farms at South Branch Preserve is celebrating an amazing first season with over 22,000 pounds of food grown and harvested! Prior to this year's harvest, City Green prepared for cultivation with cover crops to suppress weeds and bring nutrients back to the soil. This

year, the 12-acre farm grew turnips, carrots, cabbage, winter squash, watermelon, cantaloupe, corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, garlic, onions, broccoli, and more. In keeping with their mandate, City Green Inc., a non-profit based in Clifton, has been offering equitable access to healthy food while supporting and promoting environmental stewardship and ecologically sustainable communities since 2004. City Green operates farm stands and offers an incentive program for people enrolled in food assistance programs and accept food stamps at double their value through their "Good Food Bucks" program.



City Green Farms at South Branch Preserve



When selecting crops to plant, many factors are taken into consideration, including the cuisines and preferences of local consumers, and their familiarity and cooking knowledge of these products. Looking forward, the farm hopes to plant an apple orchard and cultivate blueberries, making use of a sloped area on the property that's not currently planted.

Along with providing access to fresh vegetables, City Green also focuses on education, teaching regenerative farming practices to local farmers, as well as taking on summer interns from local high schools to provide paid summer employment and youth

development programming. All in all, the 2019 growing year has been a successful one and The Land Conservancy looks forward to what 2020 has in store for this exciting partnership at the South Branch Preserve!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



278 Acres Preserved in Harmony Township!



Girl Scouts Earn Silver Award With Community Garden Project!



Annual Gray Cup Golf Classic a Success!



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OF NEW JERSEY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



When I began work with Morris Parks and Land Conservancy 25 years ago, I had no way of knowing the many changes that lay ahead. I was the first (and only!) staff person and was borrowing a single computer with 256 kb of memory. Today we have 13 staff members, a dozen volunteers, another dozen interns and 23 computers – each of which has 8000 times as much memory. Our first office had three rooms in Morristown - we have since

moved three times, changed our name twice and expanded the area we work from Morris County to the entire state.

It took three years to hire our first intern (110 have since followed) and the intern's first suggestion was to create a Conservancy website. I was opposed, but fortunately lost the argument. Just a few months later an Australian intern, who found us through our new website, created our computer based mapping system which today is still the basis for all of our land preservation and planning work.

Preserving land was always my goal and while our Board of Trustees supported that concept, initially we had absolutely no resources to make this happen. When I outlined what resources we would need, one of our Trustees donated \$100 and our Land Preservation Fund was born. Today that Fund totals \$1.8 million. It took four years to preserve our first property. Today we preserve one or more properties each month and have completed 455 transactions preserving 27,800 acres of magnificent land.

When I began, Green Acres was funded with bond referendums that were only renewed after the state ran out of money, sometimes going years without funds. Today, there is a permanent stream of state funds for open space, farmland and historic preservation, thanks to the 2014 referendum dedicating a portion of the Corporate Business Tax. The Land Conservancy of New Jersey was a leader in that effort, raising \$1.5 million to educate the public about the importance of approving this referendum. These state funds are now matched by Open Space Trust Funds in all 21 counties and more than 200 local towns – something that was virtually non-existent in 1994.

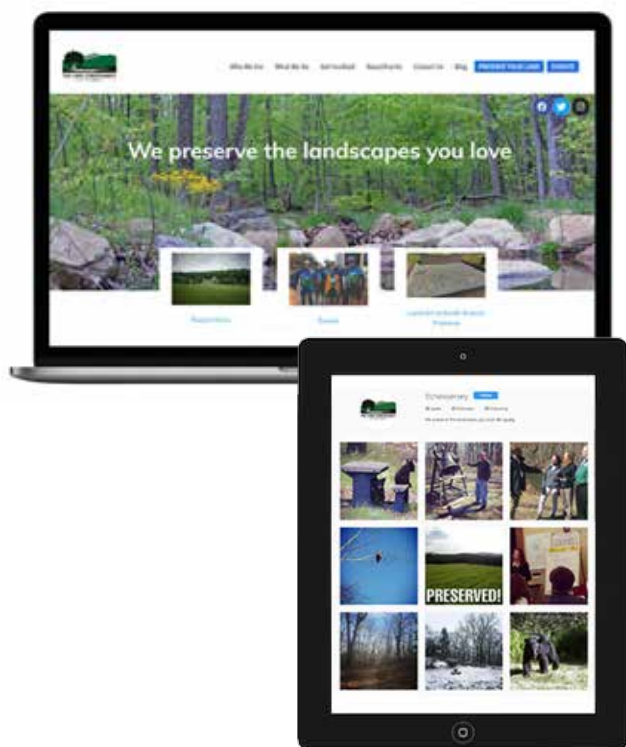
I have enjoyed my time with The Land Conservancy immensely because, through all of these remarkable changes, one thing has remained the same – my unwavering focus to preserve more of the beautiful land that makes New Jersey such a great place to live.

David Epstein, President

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

Our website features plenty of information on everything we offer including the latest news and events!

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



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35-ACRE WHITE TOWNSHIP FARM PRESERVED



Hensler Farm, White Township

The Land Conservancy is pleased to announce the preservation of Hensler Farm, a family-owned, sustainable farming operation located in scenic White Township. This 35-acre working farm features rolling landscapes, stunning views of the Delaware Water Gap and is adjacent to three preserved farm parcels, making a wonderful new addition to the farm belt in this portion of the Township. For this easement, The Land Conservancy has partnered with the Warren County Agriculture Development Board, who will own and protect the easement in perpetuity.

Over the years, Hensler Farm has grown from selling its sweet corn at roadside tables into a thriving farm, market and greenhouse business. The farm hosts Community Supported Agriculture programs where locals can buy shares of varying sizes that provide produce for 20 weeks, with up to 16 different types of produce per week. The Hensler Farmer's Market and Greenhouse also offers prepared goods, organic raw-milk cheese and flowers and plants of all kinds throughout the seasons.

“We’re thrilled that The Land Conservancy and the Warren CADB were able to step in and help preserve our family farm,” said Alfred Hensler. “It’s been a labor of love for us to grow from a small operation into a community hub of sorts for Warren County residents, and we’re glad this work will be able to continue,” he added.

SCOUTS EARN SILVER AWARD WITH COMMUNITY GARDEN



Pictured with Land Conservancy Garden Manager, Barbara McCloskey, from left, Girl Scouts Olivia Walker, Vaibhavi Borra, and Zoe Gregory with the garden hose donation from Lowes.

Three students from the Girl Scouts Troop 94594 in Mt. Olive have completed their Silver Award, the second-highest award a cadette can earn, by completing a project at our South Branch Preserve. To earn a Silver Award, the Girl Scouts identified an issue they care about; explored their community and identified a project to address, created a project plan; executed the plan; and shared the experience.

For their project, Cadette Olivia Walker, Vaibhavi Borra, and Zoe Gregory wanted to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and their important role in our food supply. They recognized the Community Garden at South Branch Preserve as an ideal location to create a habitat to attract bees and butterflies and got in touch with Community Garden Manager Barbara McCloskey

to kickstart their project. The scouts presented their project to the community at the “Rainbow Rocks” rock painting event, held at the Mt. Olive Public Library. Starting in early summer, the Scouts selected two spots—a 10’ x 10’ plot and a 3’ x 30’ strip along the Community Garden fence—where they interspersed the painted rocks among the native plants. Through their collaboration with the Pollinator Garden Program, the Scouts received pollinator garden mix containing milkweed, wildflower, and perennial seeds.

After planting the seeds at the selected plots, they grew into a wonderful assortment of pollinator plants, attracting many butterflies and bees over the season. Finally, the Scouts created a Pollinator Project website to share their goals, key learnings, and experiences with their fellow Girl Scouts and the Mt. Olive community.

TJALMA FARM PRESERVED IN HARMONY TOWNSHIP

The Land Conservancy is pleased to announce the successful preservation of the second Tjalma Farm in Harmony Township in June. This is the second of two Tjalma farming tracts totalling 278 acres that have been preserved, allowing for their active farming operation to continue.

The two farms currently grow corn and soy on a rotational basis and the land preservation will allow for an easy expansion of agricultural operations. The first Tjalma farm was purchased in 2007 as part of an agricultural easement

project led by the Township and The Land Conservancy and was the first project to be completed as part of the town’s Planning Incentive Grant with the State Agricultural Development Committee. Across the street from the Delaware River, the picturesque Tjalma farms are also adjacent to the preserved Burke and Dinsmore Farms, within a half mile buffer of a large amount of state owned open space and features beautiful views of the surrounding landscape.



Tjalma Farm, Harmony Township

THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY HONORS FORMER BOARD CHAIR NANCY CONGER

The Land Conservancy is extremely grateful for the generous support of more than 100 people who have donated in honor and memory of our former Board Chair, Nancy Conger. With these gifts, we will be construct a parking lot, installing a sign and kiosk to welcome visitors to the new Nancy Conger West Brook Preserve in West Milford, New Jersey. Construction is scheduled to begin later next year and we welcome everyone to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony in next fall.

We would like to acknowledge those who have contributed in memory of Nancy:

Jeffrey Abrams	David O. Fischer	Walter & Marilyn Lapham	Sylvia Raver
Edwin Baldrige	Bruce Foerster	Lois Larkey	Rip & Suzanne Reeves
Priscilla Barrowclough	Caroline Ford	Gerry & Barbara Lauro	Bernard Robins
Adam Blickstein	Barbara Franko	Alice Longley	Linda Rose
Gail Boertzel	Molly Gerber	David Lowenstein	Gail & Richard Rowinski
Albert Booth	Suzzane Gerber	Edward Lowenthal	Patti Russell & Mark Gomez
Rachel Bradburd	Veronica Goldberg	Taylor Lukof	Lori & Henry Salerno
John Brescher	Diana Goldman	Michael & Margery Manheim	Bob Santee
Bill Bruen	Peter & Deborah Goldman	Kathleen Manna	Jody Scharf
David Cantor	Jill Goldman	Judith Gibaldi Marfan Foundation	Eric Schumacher
Doris Cioffi	Neil & Joyce Goldstein	Lauren Martin	Karen Sherman
Lucy Conger	Green Pond Women's Club	Daniel Martini	Craig & Nancy Shumate
Alan Conger	Green Pond Yacht Club	Dave McBrair	Barbara Skutka
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James A. Fiorentino			

LAND ART SCOUT INSTALLATION



Channel your inner artist with The Land Conservancy! We're showcasing the beauty of nature and the bounty of New Jersey's natural spaces with a new initiative: Land Art at South Branch Preserve. We launched the project with a beautiful structure that was built and installed by Nishit Pansare of Budd Lake Scout Troop 312 and now invite our members and the community at large to create their own natural works of art made directly in the landscape using only natural materials.

A design will be selected each month to win a Land Conservancy prize! Follow along @tlcnewjersey on Instagram for ideas and tag us in photos of your fabulous creations.

Things to Remember:

- Rake the 'frame' before starting and return any objects to correct bins
- Using the objects in the bins, create your design inside the frame. You may supplement the provided objects with natural materials found in nature in New Jersey. Nothing man-made is permitted!

Take a photo of your design and submit it via email to landart@tlc-nj.org along with your name and address for a chance to win a Land Conservancy of New Jersey t-shirt or hat. Your photo submission will also be posted on our website at www.tlc-nj.org/landart

TRUMAN FIELD EXPANSION UPDATE

Following the devastating flooding from Hurricane Irene, Oakland Borough and The Land Conservancy initiated the Truman Field Expansion project to purchase and remove homes along the Ramapo River. Homes damaged from the flooding have been purchased to create a continuous buffer along the Ramapo River for Truman Field Park. With 12

homes purchased, eight that have been demolished, the project is now in Phase III (on nearby Lenape Lane) and we have applied for grant funding for five homes to purchase and demolish. The Borough is exploring many different uses for this new park, including river access for fishing, a walking path, native vegetation, and rain gardens.

LAND CONSERVANCY WORD SEARCH

W	R	J	D	A	W	A	L	I	F	G	N
F	T	K	O	W	U	S	Z	E	P	I	L
P	B	V	G	O	K	Q	Z	R	T	K	O
S	Z	Z	F	V	C	P	V	Z	E	X	H
N	P	C	O	V	Z	O	C	T	L	H	P
S	U	J	V	R	Y	M	Y	F	V	D	Z
P	X	R	Z	F	Y	G	U	L	D	C	C
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I	I	T	H	J	L	A	Y	Z	W	D	G
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R	I	Q	X	O	H	S	G	P	M	E	V
B	C	K	Q	Z	I	O	G	R	C	T	S
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C	O	X	M	Q	S	C	D	E	A	F	D
B	P	M	E	W	U	F	Y	U	G	Y	S

WORD BANK

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CHEW CREW

TRUMAN FIELD

*THEODORE
ROOSEVELT*

11TH ANNUAL GRAY CUP GOLF CLASSIC A SUCCESS!

This past September, the popular and much anticipated Gray Cup Golf Classic took place at the elegant Hamilton Farm Golf Club. Now in its 11th year, the fundraiser was once again well attended, with 61 golfers participating, playing a fast-paced 'Scramble format' on the Highland course. The top prize at the Gray Cup this year went to the Round Table Wealth Management foursome of Bruce Hyde, Steven Giacona, Steven Levine, and Jeff Plutchock. Meanwhile, the Most Honest Team award was given to Todd Hosier, Karen Dietz, Tom Terres, and Maryann Cubberly. Additional winners include Will Dietz for the Men's Longest Drive and Dyanna Pepitone for Women's Longest Drive. In the Closest to the Hole category, Bruce Graham was the Men's winner and Sandy Keegan clinched it in the Women's category.



Bruce Hyde, Steven Giacoma, Jeff Plutchock, Rick Simon with the Gray Cup

Congratulations to the winners and thanks again to all who participated.

Gray Cup participant and friend of The Land Conservancy, Tom Trynin said, "As always, everyone had a great time at the annual Gray Cup Classic – Hamilton Farm is one of the area's best courses and the beautiful weather made it a perfect day of golf. I enjoyed getting together with friends for some golf and to support the great work The Land Conservancy is

doing to help preserve the natural beauty of our local townships and counties," he added.

Post-contest, golfers enjoyed cocktail hour, then a bit of live-auction fun, including a wine pull featuring 30 different bottles of wine. After an informative and engaging presentation from President David Epstein,

the crowd was encouraged to donate on the spot to support the Yards Creek Preserve, a project that The Land Conservancy is working closely with the William Penn Foundation to preserve 20 properties in the Delaware River Watershed. This impromptu donation drive netted \$17,000 towards this important project.

A big thank you to all who attended. We hope to see you again next year!

TEAM PRESERVATION RIDES IN GARDEN STATE FONDO

Team Preservation enjoyed the beautiful hills and scenic roads on an early morning ride at Garden State Fondo in September. The team comprised of Kaki Pierson, Kate Halse, Matthew Finlay, Bill Conger, Gerry Lauro, Billy Pinilis, and David Epstein rode a total of 400 combined miles.

Garden State Fondo is the Northeast's premier cycling endurance challenge. Garden State Fondo is committed to building the nation's cycling community while offering an opportunity to support local charities.

It was a wonderful event, celebrating the majestic beauty of New Jersey and its many preserved natural habitats and spaces in their fall glory. Please join us next year and visit tlc-nj.org/fondo



Team Preservation



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Judith Foester
In honor of Robert Foester

Walter Friedel
In honor of Barbara Davis

Office Volunteers:

Judith Brown
Christi Whitehouse

HOLIDAY DONATIONS & YEAR-END GIVING

As 2019 comes to an end, we are asking our members to include a gift to The Land Conservancy in their year-end giving. By donating to The Land Conservancy, you help to preserve and protect critical land and water resources in our beautiful state. Here are three strategies to help save taxes by making a gift to TLC-NJ.

- If you are on the cusp of itemizing, time your gifts: As a result of tax reform, the standard deduction will be larger than your itemized deductions combined. In that case, you could carefully time your charitable gifts to allow you to itemize one year and take the standard deduction the next, preserving much of the tax savings.

- Give appreciated assets, the best way to give whether or not you itemize: Cash is always welcome - and simple. However, from a tax standpoint, it is often better to give appreciated property that you have owned more than one year. If you itemize and give an appreciated asset, such as securities, you receive a double tax benefit: a charitable deduction for the market value of the securities and no tax on the capital gain. If you take the standard deduction, you still receive the benefit of untaxed capital gain.

- If you are 70 ½ or older: A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA can be an easy and convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets, it can be excluded from your gross income: a tax-free rollover, and count toward your required minimum distribution.

Donate online at: <https://tlc-nj.org/donate-3>