

The membership newsletter  
 of the New Jersey Chapter

# the oak leaf



Tuckahoe River Blue Flag, Palm Warbler, and Rough Green Snake, Southern Pine Barrens © Michael Hogan

## Chapter Creates New Southern Pine Barrens Preserve

Pristine rivers and streams, massive oak-pine forests, wetlands and extensive water-driven natural systems speak to the great natural diversity of the southernmost reach of New Jersey's famous Pine Barrens. Threatened and endangered plant and animal species depend on the area's clean water; vast numbers of waterfowl and migratory songbirds find resting, feeding and breeding habitat; and striped bass, herring and alewife return here from the ocean each year to spawn.

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# director's letter

## The worst of times, the best of times?



Barbara Brummer © Dwight Hiscano

Fluctuating financial markets are affecting all walks of life, with charitable organizations certainly not immune. In the midst of so much uncertainty, I want to assure you that The Nature Conservancy remains strong and focused. In fact, challenging economic conditions and an increasing urgency to protect ecologically significant lands and waters are creating rare opportunities to catalyze new thinking, collaboration and creative solutions.

The Nature Conservancy is responding to current conditions with a strong push to maintain its conservation momentum. That momentum is exceptional. In the last fiscal year alone, the Conservancy helped protect a remarkable 2,728,993 acres around the world through 788 conservation transactions, including more than 800 acres in New Jersey. Through the *Plant a Billion Trees Campaign*, we are helping to bring back Brazil's Atlantic Forest; and, at countless places around the globe, restoring other forests—like that at our Lummi Ponds Preserve (see page 5)—that sustain the planet's ecological diversity, air and water. And the list goes on.

Globally and locally, The Nature Conservancy is focusing even more sharply on its priorities. In New Jersey, in addition to cutting costs and watching every penny, we are concentrating on acquiring major properties that are not only critical, but will give us the biggest conservation return for every dollar invested. Not really much different from how we usually do business, but right now there are new opportunities—landowners are more willing to give us a bit more time, consider a lower price or consent to an option agreement (see *Hot Properties!* on page 9)—that can disappear if we postpone action.

This is one of the reasons that over the next few months we will be announcing major new land protection projects here in New Jersey that we cannot put off to “better” times.

Just as the New Jersey Chapter is maintaining its conservation momentum, I ask that you not put conservation on the back burner; that you stay connected with us; that you spend some time out on the land (see events and trips, page 10); and rekindle your passion for and connection to the natural world.

After all, no bumpy financial cycle lasts forever, but loss of the natural world can have impacts that will last, if not forever, for a very long time.

Barbara Brummer, Ph.D., New Jersey State Director

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# faces of conservation



Mike Huber, center, with New Jersey Chapter staff and trustees in the Pine Barrens © Barbara Brummer/TNC

## Farewell to a Founding Father

In January, the conservation world lost a true friend. Michael W. Huber passed away at the age of 82, leaving an enormous legacy of protecting our natural treasures to the millions who enjoy New Jersey's—and the world's—great outdoors.

Mike worked tirelessly to preserve open space and natural diversity through his support of The Nature Conservancy and many other organizations that champion this work. A founding member of the New Jersey Chapter's board of trustees, Mike served in many capacities and was board chair from 2003 to 2005. Among his environmental passions, New Jersey's Pine Barrens and Maine's great forests stood out. He provided generous support in every sense of that word, saw us through many achievements, and continued to be deeply involved and devoted to conservation until his death.

Amid the meetings and decision-making and efforts to raise money for the Conservancy, Mike often said that

his favorite moments were times spent outdoors in natural areas. "The most fun is always the trips to see places." Whether in New Jersey, Antarctica, the Arctic Circle or any place in between, he was a true student of nature and could identify hundreds of species of flora and fauna by sight, sound and sign.

Barbara Brummer, state director for the New Jersey Chapter, reminisces, "Mike was the epitome of a gentleman and, along with passion, he brought a strength and calm that set the tone for whatever activity he was a part of. My favorite memories are of field trips with him: the look on his face when spotting an eaglet in the bald eagle nest at our Maurice River Bluffs Preserve or his intense interest in the tiniest orchids when he and Caroline joined us on a trip in his beloved Pine Barrens."

Mike's love for the environment started in childhood, with summers spent at his grandfather's farm overlooking the Navesink River in Monmouth County. By 1974, in an effort to preserve the family lands as a nature sanctuary, the Huber family donated the first acres to the Monmouth County Parks Department.

Over the years, through Mike, the family and the family business—the J.M. Huber Corporation—several more acres were donated, with a reverter clause naming Monmouth Conservation Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. Huber Woods Park today consists of 366 acres and features forests, meadows, more than eight miles of multi-use trails and an environmental center housed in the Huber family's old homestead.

Mike will be remembered as a family man, environmentalist, businessman and humanitarian, supporting a wide range of organizations promoting civil rights, social and economic justice, education, family planning, political reform, the performing arts and, of course, conservation. His work won't soon be forgotten. With spring upon us and summer in sight, we should all try to honor Mike's legacy and visit some of the special places he worked so hard to protect for us all.

### Preserves Featured in this Oak Leaf



# New Southern Pine Barrens Preserve (continued from page 1)



Pine Barrens treefrog © Michael Hogan

The fact that this southern piece of the Pine Barrens has less protection from development than areas to the north, coupled with increasing development pressure emanating from the Atlantic City area, led The Nature Conservancy to focus renewed attention here in 2007. Sparked by a grant from The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, in the fall of 2008 the Conservancy acquired two properties here, establishing a foothold for a new preserve. An additional property is under contract.

Located along a headwater tributary of the Tuckahoe River—which winds its way to the Great Egg Harbor River and Bay through an expanse of salt marsh and tidal creeks—and totaling approximately 39 acres, these lands serve as the foundation for the Conservancy's new Head of River Preserve. The New Jersey Chapter now protects and manages nearly 24,000 acres at 38 preserves statewide.

"The Conservancy has long recognized the ecological importance of the Southern Pine Barrens," says Barbara Brummer, Ph.D., New Jersey Chapter state director. "Our Eldora Nature Preserve, encompassing more than 860 acres of preserved land, and Manumuskin River Preserve, the Chapter's largest preserve at more than

3,600 acres, are two examples of significant projects that are ensuring that the biodiversity of the Southern Pine Barrens remains intact for future generations.

"Head of River Preserve expands our conservation efforts into a new conservation focus area, and will serve as an important step in stemming the threat of residential development to this fragile landscape."

New Jersey's Pine Barrens are among the world's natural wonders, covering more than 1.1 million acres, harboring large numbers of rare species—swamp pink, pine barren gentian and sensitive joint-vetch, to name a few—and protecting aquifers that contain an estimated 17 trillion gallons of fresh water. Long recognized as having international significance, the New Jersey Pine Barrens is the most extensive undeveloped area between Boston and Washington.

Covering 351,475 acres stretching through Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May counties, the southern extension of the Pine Barrens was identified in the New Jersey Chapter's Strategic Conservation Plan as the Southern Pine Barrens Priority Conservation Area. This area is one of four special places statewide that, based on scientific studies, have been categorized as being at the highest risk of development and of the highest priority for long-term conservation.

The new preserve is located within the lower third of the Southern Pine Barrens Priority Conservation Area, in an area—the Weymouth Focus Area—determined to be a top priority for land protection, not least because of a number of "paper" roads that are ripe for paving, an increasing number of

sprawling residential developments, and significant growth of commercial development along main roads. This focus area demonstrates the extraordinary water resources of the region, with the Manumuskin River and Menantico Creek, part of the Wild and Scenic Maurice River system, in the west and the Tuckahoe River in the center.

According to The Tiffany & Co. Foundation's president, Fernanda Kellogg, "This project will help protect for generations to come one of the Northeast's most unusual landscapes—the Pine Barrens—and its extraordinary forest and water resources. It is very much in tune with the foundation's commitment to environmental conservation that both protects natural resources and furthers appreciation of these resources as part of the surrounding community and as part of a broader, essential ecosystem."

The Conservancy's project is in an area where development could have a major impact on the protected lands nearby. Protection here will help retain a movement corridor for terrestrial species that runs from the Peaslee Wildlife Management Area, owned and managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in the west to the protected lands along the Great Egg Harbor River in the east. Peaslee, one of the largest wildlife management areas in the state, protects large expanses of contiguous forest and diverse habitats, including pinelands, cedar bog, hardwood swamp and scrub oak forests.

The New Jersey Chapter plans to protect another 200 acres in the Southern Pine Barrens by 2010.

## Planting the Seeds of Change

For nine months each year, Pedro Agustin spends his days planting native seedlings in Brazil's Atlantic Forest. Although just seven percent of the original forest remains, Agustin and his colleagues are determined to bring this forest back from the brink of extinction, one tree at a time. "It's hard work—year round," Agustin admits. But he smiles when he mentions that for the first time he saw an anteater return to the recently reforested area.

Miles away in southern New Jersey's Cumberland Forest, Conservancy land steward Damon Noe led over 60 volunteers and staff as they planted more than 200 trees and hundreds of seeds and acorns last November as part of a multi-phase reforestation project on the former hog farm that is now part of our Lummis Ponds Preserve. "This has been a rewarding and humbling experience," Noe comments. "Looking down at the tiny green sprigs poking through the soil from last year's acorn plantings, I know that someday majestic oaks will once again stand here."

Together, yet worlds apart, The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with governments, corporations, indigenous peoples, communities and landowners, is working to conserve and enhance the health of forests around the globe for the benefit of plants,



Planting trees at Lummis Ponds Preserve © TNC

animals and humans.

New Jersey's Cumberland Forest, once stretching over hundreds of thousands of acres just inland from the Delaware Bay, still contains expanses of intact forest bordered by the vegetable farms that made New Jersey the Garden State. Home to some of New Jersey's oldest stands of oak, holly, maple and magnolia, the area is a haven for some of our state's most threatened plants and animals, including thousands of birds that nest and feed in the dense woods, abandoned farm fields and wetlands. Throughout the forest, the Chapter is working to acquire strategic land holdings and to promote and employ land management techniques—including restoration like that at Lummis Ponds—to protect another key resource, the area's pristine water.

Brazil's Atlantic Forest once covered an area the size of the U.S. Eastern Seaboard from Maine to South Carolina. Despite losing over 93 percent of its forest cover, the area still harbors 23 species of primates, 1,000 species of birds and more than 20,000 species of plants, many of them found nowhere else on Earth. Illegal logging, land conversion to pastures and urban expansion have all contributed to its degradation. Efforts to bring about the rebirth of the Atlantic Forest are focused on large-scale reforestation. With local partners, the Conservancy is working to plant 1 billion trees, reforesting 2.5 million acres by 2015.

Although protecting different forests can entail different strategies, the benefits forests provide are universal. They shade and shelter us, clean our air and water, provide habitat



Pedro Agustin planting native seedlings in Brazil's Atlantic Forest  
© Adriano Gambarini

for two-thirds of the planet's species, and offer recreation and rejuvenation. Releasing oxygen and storing carbon dioxide, forests also help keep Earth's fragile atmosphere in balance.

Drastically, though, nearly half of the world's original forest cover is gone. Growing global population and rising demand for forest and agricultural products put the world's remaining forests at increasing risk.

While we cannot halt all forest exploitation, we can use all our conservation tools to conserve healthy, productive forests that sustain nature and people.

For more information about Lummis Ponds Preserve and other stewardship efforts in New Jersey, please contact Damon Noe at (609) 861-4129 or [dnoe@tnc.org](mailto:dnoe@tnc.org). To learn how you can help restore the beauty to the Atlantic Forest, visit [www.plantabillion.org](http://www.plantabillion.org).

# program highlights

## Saving Special Places

While current economic conditions pose great challenges, The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey has not slowed its land protection pace. Since the last issue of the Oak Leaf, several key parcels have been acquired—and several more are in the “pipeline,” including the 95.6 acres featured in Hot Properties! (see page 9). The sagging economy has made some landowners more interested in working with the Conservancy, and major new projects are in the works, including acquisition of an additional 110 acres for our Minisink Valley Preserve in the Kittatinny Ridge and Valley and nearly 500 acres for our Manumuskin River Preserve in the Cumberland Forest.

### In recent months, the New Jersey Chapter acquired, or helped partners acquire, the following:

- **Indian Trail Swamp Preserve,** *Cape May County: 148 acres.* Protecting one of the few remaining examples of state-imperiled Cape May lowland swamp community, the preserve contains the headwaters and critical upper watersheds of Dias Creek and Green Creek. Extremely important habitat for raptors and migratory neotropical songbirds is found within these forested wetlands. This is the third and final phase of a multi-year project, bringing the total preserve acreage to 634 [Cape May Forest Priority Conservation Area].
- **Eldora Nature Preserve,** *Cape May and Cumberland counties: 32 acres.* This is the 12th land acquisition project at Eldora since 1981, when the first 177-acre parcel was protected; the



Willow Grove Lake Preserve © TNC



The new boardwalk at Eldora Nature Preserve  
© Dale Duffy Goldfarb

preserve now totals 896 acres. Home to the Conservancy’s Delaware Bayshores Center, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, Eldora protects a mosaic of Southern Pine Barrens habitats—meadows, salt and cattail marshes, old orchards and pine-oak woodlands. Bald eagles winter here, migrating songbirds and hawks congregate during spring and fall, and a variety of rare or endangered moths, butterflies and skippers are found. A new boardwalk allows year-round access to the preserve’s marsh area [Southern Pine Barrens Priority Conservation Area].

- **Willow Grove Lake,** *Salem and Cumberland counties: 9.07 acres, bringing the preserve to 1,778 acres.* The owners were kind enough to sell the property to the Conservancy for below its appraised value, allowing us to add protection to the preserve’s thick forests and flowing streams—including a five-mile stretch of both sides of the “Wild and Scenic” Maurice River—nestled along the fringe of the Pine Barrens. A mosaic of upland and freshwater wetland habitats protects a number of rare and threatened species [Cumberland Forest Priority Conservation Area].
- **Arctic Meadows Preserve,** *Sussex County: 0.68 acres, bringing the preserve to a total of 76.85 acres.* Located in the foothills of the Kittatinny Mountain Range, the preserve provides refuge for black bear, beaver and the state-endangered timber rattlesnake. A small and delicate flowering plant, found nowhere else in the world, thrives in a rare inland

acidic seep—a unique wetland habitat in which cold, acidic water intersects the ground surface and flows into the preserve [Kittatinny Ridge and Valley Priority Conservation Area].

- **Port Republic Wildlife Management Area**, *Galloway Township, Atlantic County: 6.6 acres.* Spanning Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May counties, the 237,266-acre Atlantic Coast Marsh landscape is defined by salt marsh habitats interlaced with tidal creeks and shallow bays. The Conservancy's Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge and Cape Island Creek Preserve are protected within this landscape. The 6.6 acres, donated through a bequest, will be transferred to the State of New Jersey as an addition to Port Republic WMA. Visitors to this 1,457-acre refuge enjoy hiking, fishing, bird watching, and hunting.

- **Cape May National Wildlife Refuge**, *Cape May County: 437 acres, an "assist" with The Conservation Fund.* Located within the 41,163-acre Cape May Forest landscape, the refuge's forested wetlands, coastal intermittent ponds, freshwater wetlands, Cape May lowland swamp and wet meadows provide critical migratory stopover habitat. The Conservancy has a long history here, purchasing the first 90-acre tract that established the refuge, which now totals more than 11,000 acres. The new acreage will be transferred to the State of New Jersey as an addition to the refuge.

## Stewarding the Land

Land stewards are among the unsung heroes of conservation. But, after the excitement of acquiring a property, it is their day-in and day-out care of the land that ensures the long-term health of these special places.

Among recent activities, staff and nearly 100 volunteers have been working on a series of projects designed to make the Conservancy's 400-acre Lizard Tail Swamp Preserve in Cape May County more accessible and informative for visitors—while also protecting ecologically sensitive areas. With a Recreational Trails Program grant from the Federal Highway Administration, they have spruced up the entrance and are creating a new 3-mile loop trail that provides access to previously inaccessible parts of the preserve. More than 30 middle school woodshop club students contributed over 800 hours, making and installing dozens of trail signs as well as an eye-catching entrance sign.

In Cumberland County, new projects are about to get under way at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve, including construction of a new trail and enhancement of existing trails with steps, switchbacks, hand rails, benches, picnic tables, a land bridge and trail and entrance signs. Improvements are being made possible with funding from the Cumberland County Improvement Authority.

In northern New Jersey, land stewards are carrying out a project to stop illegal use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on our Sussex Swamp Preserve in Sussex County. Efforts, which are continuing this spring and summer, include posting signs and installing gates and other barriers. This is part of an overall management plan designed to protect the rare elements of conservation concern. Our strategy also includes increasing the overall visibility of Conservancy staff with the goal of stopping the ATV activity on the preserve.



Students install a new entrance sign at Lizard Tail Swamp Preserve © TNC

## Government Relations Update— Climate Change

The Nature Conservancy's Government Relations team works to advance our mission by advocating for government policies and funding that support our conservation goals. Climate change is one of the issues that have been keeping the New Jersey Chapter's government relations director Tom Wells busy.

While climate change has spawned its share of controversy, it is safe to say that every acre of land and mile of coast protected by The Nature Conservancy will be affected to some degree by climate change—which is why the Conservancy is pursuing comprehensive solutions at all levels, from science to policy, state to global.

Tom has been supporting implementation of the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) within New Jersey. In this ten-state carbon emissions cap-and-trade system, energy plants from Maine to Maryland that emit carbon dioxide are required to purchase emissions allowances. To date, two RGGI allowance auctions have generated more than \$145 million for the states to invest, primarily in activities that will conserve energy and lower the long-run

cost of electricity and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compliance.

In 2009, New Jersey will receive approximately \$73 million through the auctions, with 10 percent allocated to the NJDEP to enhance carbon sequestration through programs that support stewardship and restoration of the state's forests and tidal marshes. Part of Tom's job is to make sure that these funds are spent in areas of the state where they will support both carbon sequestration and conservation of biodiversity.

One reason for devoting strong effort to RGGI is the assumption that the lessons learned will influence federal climate change legislation, which is currently being debated in Washington. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce is expected to act on a climate change bill by Memorial Day. The Conservancy and partner organizations are working together to ensure that the bill contains strong reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions and other provisions to protect forests and allow nature and human populations to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

### Go Green! Receive the *Oak Leaf* electronically.

Would you like to receive future issues of the *Oak Leaf*, as well as the New Jersey Chapter's events brochure, to your e-mail? It's a convenient and environmentally friendly way to keep up-to-date on news from the field, events, volunteer opportunities and more.

Please send your e-mail address and current home address to Diane Borowsky (write "Go Green" in the subject line) at [dborowsky@tnc.org](mailto:dborowsky@tnc.org). Let's work together to reduce New Jersey's carbon footprint!

We are proud to recognize our Corporate Partners for Conservation – businesses that support the Conservancy's work in New Jersey and those (\*) that also partner with the New Jersey Chapter to support global programs.

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# preserve profile



Spring migration at Sunray Beach Preserve © TNC

## Sunray Beach Preserve

From early May through mid-June, thousands of shorebirds—including red knots, sanderlings and semipalmated plovers—can be found feeding and resting at prime locales along the Delaware Bayshores. Here, they gorge themselves on horseshoe crab eggs and

other food sources to fuel the last leg of an epic journey taking them towards breeding grounds. Red knots, for example, will travel some 9,000 miles to reach the Arctic from their wintering grounds at the southern tip of South America.

The sweeping 1,600-foot Delaware Bay beachfront and coastal dunes of The Nature Conservancy's Sunray Beach Preserve play a critical role in this ancient migration ritual. Acquired by the Conservancy starting in 1997, the preserve's habitats are also home to a number of state significant plant and animal species. Backed by woodlands, salt marsh and freshwater wetlands, the 104-acre preserve is virtually unchanged amid burgeoning development in the

region. In fact, the extensive coastal dunes remain much the same since first viewed by European immigrants arriving to settle the area.

Spanning Delaware and New Jersey, the Delaware Bayshores is a relatively intact natural area acknowledged as one of the Earth's most important stopovers for migratory birds. Preserving the health of this key stopover has global conservation implications.

Visitors enjoy walking along the beach or participating in the Horseshoe Crab Census. Volunteer shorebird docents help protect the globally important migration phenomenon. For more information, please contact the Delaware Bayshores Program office at (609) 861-0600.

# hot properties

## Kittatinny Ridge and Valley: Flatbrook Valley Focus Area

*Help save 95.6 pristine acres and protect a half mile of the Little Flatbrook in Sussex County*



The Little Flatbrook © Diane Borowsky/TNC

### What makes it special?

Alongside a winding country road, a portion of the property's 30 acres of high-quality wetlands welcomes you. Deeper in, a break in the forest gives a glimpse of the half-mile of the Little Flatbrook that runs through the property. Native brook trout thrive in this Category One (designated by the State as being of high water quality) stream's fast-moving waters. Historic beaver activity helped create a pond that provides habitat for great blue herons, wood ducks, American black ducks and blue- and green-winged teals. Located within an unprotected portion of the ecologically important Flatbrook Watershed, this special place is a top priority for the New Jersey Chapter. The watershed, which covers 40,960

acres and contains 93 total stream miles, has some of the highest water quality in the state. A great diversity of dragonfly and damselfly species relies on the area's pristine water and healthy landscape.

### What's the rush?

With development pressures mounting—even in this challenging economy—it is urgent to act now. Located in a residentially zoned area, the property has the potential for 14 building lots; housing here would have major impacts, with contaminants draining into the ponds and wetlands. The owners have signed an option agreement with the Conservancy. We must raise sufficient funds by June in order to exercise the option or risk losing the property to subdivision.

# experience nature

## Field trips, events & volunteer opportunities

Visit [nature.org/newjersey](http://nature.org/newjersey) for the latest information.

Participants must preregister for all events, field trips and volunteer opportunities. Activities are free unless otherwise stated; credit cards accepted. Dress for any weather conditions; sturdy shoes and long pants recommended. Bring water, lunch, insect repellent, binoculars and sunscreen, where needed.

## Delaware Bayshores

The Conservancy's Delaware Bayshores trips and events take place in Cumberland and Cape May counties. Contact Khara McKeen to register and for directions: (609) 861-4134 or [kmckeen@tnc.org](mailto:kmckeen@tnc.org).

### FIELD TRIPS

#### Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Phenomenon

Friday, June 5, 10 a.m. – noon

Leader: Alyssa Jones, The Nature Conservancy

Join the "crab caravan" through the Delaware Bayshores and see the ancient ritual between horseshoe crabs and migratory birds.

Cost: \$30; \$20 for Conservancy members

#### Bluffs in Boots!

Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. – noon

Leader: David DeSalvo, The Nature Conservancy

Celebrate National Trails Day with a spirited walk through the scenic Maurice River Bluffs Preserve. Enjoy breathtaking views atop 30-foot bluffs and learn about this unique local topography.

Cost: Free

#### In Search of Beach Nesters

Friday, June 19, 9 a.m. – noon

Leader: Alyssa Jones, The Nature Conservancy

Learn about beach nesters and how you can help abate threats to these critical species at the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge.

Cost: \$30; \$20 for Conservancy members

#### Restoration of the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge

Saturdays, June thru October, 10 a.m. – noon

Leader: Staff from The Nature Conservancy

The Refuge reopened in 2007 after an extensive restoration. See species that have returned to this flagship preserve.

Cost: Weekly pass - \$5; \$3 for Conservancy members. Annual pass - \$15; \$10 for Conservancy members

#### Chasing Gossamer Winged Royalty—Monarchs!

Tuesday, September 29, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Leader: Staff from The Nature Conservancy

Don't miss a unique opportunity to see these special migrants. Binoculars recommended.

Cost: Weekly pass - \$5; \$3 for Conservancy members. Annual pass - \$15; \$10 for Conservancy members

#### Fungus Among Us: A Guided Walk

Thursday, October 15, 10 a.m. – noon

Leaders: Brent Burke and Khara McKeen, The Nature Conservancy

Neither flora nor fauna, fungi grow in an amazing variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Gain insight on a walk through Eldora Nature Preserve.

Cost: \$15; \$10 for Conservancy members

#### Paddling Beside the Bluffs

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Leaders: Les Frie and Damon Noe, The Nature Conservancy

Paddle along the "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River and discover New Jersey's coastal history, culture and ecology. All equipment supplied for this moderately strenuous trip.

Cost: \$100; \$80 for Conservancy members

#### The Great Raptor Quest

Monday, November 2, 9 a.m. – noon

Leader: Brent Burke, The Nature Conservancy

Caravan to some of the best hot spots for viewing raptors south of the Cape May canal, including the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge.

Cost: \$30; \$20 for Conservancy members



Egret and red-wing blackbird, Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge  
© John Thomas

#### Late Fall Migrations in the Bayshores

Friday, November 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Leader: Khara McKeen, The Nature Conservancy

Learn about the migration habits of birds and butterflies on this caravan tour, with stops at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve and Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge.

Cost: \$30; \$20 for Conservancy members

#### Bluffs Photo Workshop with Damon Noe

Saturday, November 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Leader: Damon Noe, The Nature Conservancy

Gain basic hands-on techniques of digital photography during an inside tutorial and then head outside to apply lessons learned at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve.

Cost: \$30; \$20 for Conservancy members

### VOLUNTEER EVENTS

#### Volunteer Festival Assistant Opportunities

Festival times usually range from about 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., but vary with each event.

Help out at a local festival: set up and break down displays, interact with community members, or hand out literature. No experience necessary.



Horseshoe crab census © TNC

### Horseshoe Crab Census

May – June, various nights

Call Alyssa Jones at (609) 861-4120 for times.

### International Coastal Cleanup at Gandy's Beach Preserve

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Learn more at [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)

### Endangered Beach Nesters Fence Removal Work Party

Friday, September 19, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Trail Cleanup Series at Manumuskin

Fridays, September 25 and October 23,

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Eldora Butterfly Garden Work Party

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Beach Sweep and Seining at Sunray Beach Preserve

Saturday, October 24, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Lizard Tail Preserve Work Party

Saturday, November 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Planting at Lummis Ponds Preserve

Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Vegetation Cleanup at Bennett Bogs Preserve

Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Kay Center

The Elizabeth D. Kay Environmental Center is located in Chester (Morris County). Contact Diane Borowsky to register or for directions: (908) 955-0356 or [dborowsky@tnc.org](mailto:dborowsky@tnc.org).

### Monarch Migration Mania

Saturday, August 22, 11 a.m. – noon

Presenter: Darlene Mounts Feldman, Darlene's Garden

Learn about the life cycle, natural history and migratory behavior of the Monarch butterfly.

### Bats...Fact or Fiction

Thursday, September 17, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Presenter: Dr. Lance Risley, William Paterson University

Learn about North American bat species and dispel some of the usual misconceptions about our nocturnal friends.

### The Pine Barrens

Wednesday, November 4, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Presenter: Carleton Montgomery, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Learn about the landscape, natural features and wildlife that make this 2,000-square-mile tract of wilderness so special.

## White Lake Programs

The White Lake Natural Resource Area is located in Hardwick Township (Sussex County). Contact Michelle LaRocco to register and for directions: (908) 955-0342 or [mlarocco@tnc.org](mailto:mlarocco@tnc.org).

### 2nd Annual White Lake Day

Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Leader: Michelle LaRocco, The Nature Conservancy

Short programs focus on White Lake's history, geology, birds and more. Joint venture with Warren County, Ridge and Valley Conservancy and Hardwick Historical Society.

### Frogs and Toads

Friday, July 10, 8:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Leader: Michelle LaRocco, The Nature Conservancy

Listen for frog and toad calls as we explore the wetlands around White Lake.

### Butterfly Walk

Saturday, July 25, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Michelle LaRocco, The Nature Conservancy

Join experts Sharon and Wade Wander on a walk through the meadows in search of butterflies.

### Bats at White Lake

Friday, August 28, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Leader: Michelle LaRocco, The Nature Conservancy

Join MacKenzie Hall of Conserve Wildlife as we look for bats foraging around White Lake.

## VOLUNTEER EVENTS

### Wednesday Work Nights

September 2 and 23, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.;

October 14, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Leader: Michelle LaRocco, The Nature Conservancy

Tasks include invasive species removal and installation of habitat improvements, such as birdhouses or bat-houses.

## Skylands Programs

The Conservancy's Skylands trips and events take place in Warren and Sussex counties. Contact Eric Olsen to register and for directions: (908) 955-0339 or [eolsen@tnc.org](mailto:eolsen@tnc.org).

### Spring Warbler Migration at Mashapacong Bogs Preserve

Friday, May 22, 6 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Leaders: Eric Olsen and Joe Smith, The Nature Conservancy

Take an early trek to discover why the intact forest and boreal bog ecosystem here are perfect feeding spots for migrant songbirds. Cost: \$20; \$15 for Conservancy members

### Blair Creek Dragonfly Walk

Sunday, June 7, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Leaders: Eric Olsen, The Nature Conservancy and George Nixon, naturalist and odonate specialist

Search the varied wetlands within Blair Creek Preserve for dragonflies and damselflies.

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# experience nature

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Blue dasher, adult male © TNC

Cost: \$20; \$15 for Conservancy members

### Late Summer at Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve

Friday, August 28, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Leader: Eric Olsen, The Nature Conservancy

As the sun sets over the preserve, embrace nature as it turns in for the night.

Cost: Free

### Sunrise Mountain Fall Raptor Migration

Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. – noon

Leader: Eric Olsen, The Nature Conservancy

Enjoy spectacular views atop Sunrise Mountain in Stokes State Forest. Learn about the important raptor migration flightline of the Kittatinny Ridge.

Cost: Free

## VOLUNTEER EVENTS

### Mashipacong Bogs Preserve Invasive Species Removal

Saturdays, May 23 and August 1,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Blair Creek Preserve Trail Work Day

Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Sussex Swamp Preserve Invasive Species Removal

Saturday, August 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve Invasive Species Removal

Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Blair Creek Preserve Invasive Species Removal

Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.