

## Vote This November to Save New Jersey's Preservation Program

By Chris Jage

On November 6, 2007, New Jersey voters will be asked to approve the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007. By authorizing the state to issue \$200 million in general obligation bonds, the Act would provide much-needed funds to keep New Jersey's open space, farmland and historic preservation programs afloat for one more year and to begin a new Blue Acres program to purchase flood prone properties.

You can help decide the future of our state's preservation efforts by casting your vote on November 6 and spreading the word about this ballot question. Essential to the health of our communities, high-quality natural areas, parks and historic areas provide opportunities for recreation, education and economic development. They build community and ensure public health through the protection of air and water resources.

In addition, they safeguard wildlife habitat and boost local economies by spurring revitalization, supporting area businesses and providing a better quality of life. Please visit [www.NJKeptItGreen.org](http://www.NJKeptItGreen.org) for more information on this November's ballot question and how you can help.

The funds provided by the passage of

the question will arrive at a critical point when the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), which has historically financed the Green Acres, Farmland and Historic preservation programs, is running out of money, and despite current efforts, there have been no successful long-term funding proposals. Through our collaboration with the Outdoor Recreation Alliance and the Keep It Green Campaign, a coalition of over 90 organizations, our organization is working with the public to ensure the passage of this November's ballot question and with state leaders to secure a long-term stable funding source for the GSPT. We must act now as New Jersey loses 40 acres of open space to development each day.

This November the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007 must pass with overwhelming support to demonstrate the public's desire to continue New Jersey's preservation efforts. You can help ensure the passage of this question by casting your vote on November 6, 2007 and by spreading the word about the importance of this initiative. For more information, please visit [www.NJKeptItGreen.org](http://www.NJKeptItGreen.org) or contact Joanna Wolaver, New Jersey Audubon Society at [joanna.wolaver@njaudubon.org](mailto:joanna.wolaver@njaudubon.org) or 609-392-1181.



Conservancy volunteers gather on Clean Up Day at the North Branch Preserve.

### Calendar of Events

**Sunday, October 7**

**Pinelands Discovery Festival**

Whitesbog Village  
13 Whitesbog Village  
Browns Mills, NJ  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
\$5 parking fee  
For information contact  
Pinelands Preservation  
Alliance  
(609) 859-8860  
[www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org)

**Oct. 1 to Oct. 31**

**Art Show**

Medford Leas Auditorium  
1 Medford Leas Way  
Medford, NJ  
(609) 654-3000  
Artist Janet Cebular  
Artist reception October 9  
3:00 to 4:30 pm  
Daily 9:00 to 8:00pm  
Free  
[www.medfordleas.org](http://www.medfordleas.org)

**Saturday, October 13**

**Apple Festival**

Kirby's Mill  
Church & Fostertown Road  
Medford, NJ  
(609) 654-1629  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Free  
Apple treats, vendors, crafts

**Saturday, November 3**

**Rancocas Conservancy Annual Meeting**

Medford Leas  
1 Medford Leas Way  
Medford, NJ  
For information,  
email: [rancocas@bigfoot.com](mailto:rancocas@bigfoot.com)  
or call (609) 859-8860 ext. 17

**Saturday, October 27**

**Rancocas Conservancy Preserve Cleanup**

For information,  
email [rancocas@bigfoot.com](mailto:rancocas@bigfoot.com)  
or call (609) 859-8860 ext. 17

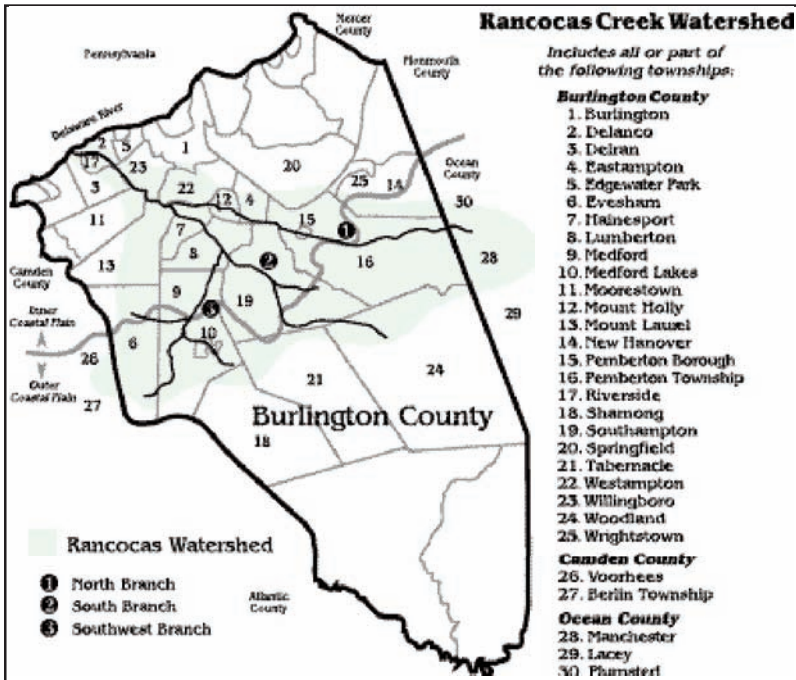
**Saturday, November 17**

**Rancocas Conservancy Preserve Cleanup**

For information,  
email [rancocas@bigfoot.com](mailto:rancocas@bigfoot.com)  
or call (609) 859-8860 ext. 17

# Rancocas Journal

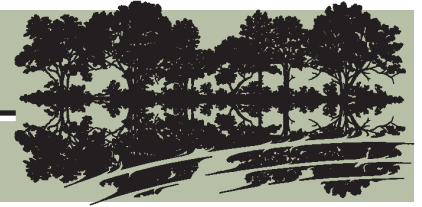
RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY  
P.O. Box 2188, Vincentown, NJ 08088



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### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Warm days, cool nights, no chiggers... its fall again in New Jersey! Why not experience the beauty of the fall colors taking a meandering paddle down the new Medford Canoe Trail. The new trail was accomplished by numerous volunteers removing debris from the river and a generous grant from REI for expenses.

There are numerous launch sites along the trail as well as at the Conservancy's North Branch Preserve (at the Pemberton Bypass) Burlington County College, or at Smithville Park.

Or, if you'd rather, you can experience fall by taking a stroll in the woods on one of the Rancocas Conservancy's many preserves. If you are feeling adventurous check out our newest preserve! It is our largest preserve yet at 226 acres and is located at the headwaters of Friendship Creek in Tabernacle. And don't forget our Annual Meeting to be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 at Medford Leas. We'll be enjoying the Medford Leas nature trail, and then enjoying a presentation by Bob Birdsall, author of New Jersey's own Seasons of the Pines and People of the Pines, depicting interesting folks of our treasured Pine Barrens and many Conservancy supporters. We'll also be honoring Springfield Mayor Bill Pettit for his unrelenting commitment to preserving farmland in Burlington County and the State.

The Conservancy would also like to congratulate the Burlington County Freeholders for their preservation of the 88 acre Henry Rowan Estate located at the Centerton Bridge in Westampton. It's an absolute gem!

Your trustees are looking forward to an ever active '08 and want you to come along. The Conservancy not only needs your financial support but also your talents to help us grow and prosper. There are many ways you can volunteer. Join us on a clean up, serve on the Board or a committee, or help out with a special event. There is something for everyone and please remember this fall as always... enjoy your watershed!

Looking for more information? Read the complete stories of our new Friendship Creek Preserve and our annual meeting in the following pages and check out our website at [www.rancocasconservancy.org](http://www.rancocasconservancy.org) or email us at [rancocas@bigfoot.com](mailto:rancocas@bigfoot.com)!

President, Board of Trustees

## The Conservancy's Newest Acquisition: Friendship Creek Preserve

by Chris Jage

In late August, the Rancocas Conservancy preserved 226 acres in Tabernacle Township in partnership with New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The Conservancy purchased the newly named "Friendship Creek Preserve" from Tabernacle Township with grants from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Green Acres Program, Conservation Resources Inc., the NJDEP Office of Natural Resource Restoration, and private donors. The property is located off Irluck's Causeway and contains the headwaters of Friendship Creek, a tributary to the South Branch of the Rancocas Creek.

"This is a spectacular property that represents the diversity of habitats in the Pine Barrens," said Chris Jage, a Trustee of Rancocas Conservancy. "It has upland pitch pine forests, Atlantic white cedar forest, and deciduous wooded wetlands. The Conservancy looks forward to developing public access to this property so that everyone can enjoy this special piece of New Jersey."

The Conservancy will be creating a management plan which will guide development of public access and establish habitat management goals. Due to the complexity of this particular acquisition, the Conservancy relied heavily on the staff and expertise of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. As a result of this partnership, the Preserve will be jointly owned and managed by The Ran-

cocas Conservancy and New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

The Conservancy paid \$338,000 for the property by using a \$188,000 grant from the Green Acres Program, and \$150,000 from the Office of Natural Resource Restoration from a Natural Resource Damage Settlement, with these settlement funds being administered by Conservation Resources Inc. The remainder of the purchase price came from private donations.

"We were very happy to have provided funding to help preserve this Pine Barrens property," said Michael Catania, President of Conservation Resources Inc. "We were also able to provide Rancocas Conservancy with a \$5,000 grant from our Small Grants Program. Oftentimes it is difficult for small land trusts such as Rancocas Conservancy to fund closing costs for preservation projects like Friendship Creek. Our Small Grants Program is designed to help with this."

John Sacco, Administrator of the NJDEP Office of Natural Resource Restoration explained, "The NRD settlement was concerned with previous groundwater contamination on a property located a short distance away, also in Tabernacle Township. The Friendship Creek Preserve project provided the perfect nexus between the natural resource damage that had occurred and per-

continued on page 2

**SAVE the DATE!**

## Saturday, November 3, 2007

### Rancocas Conservancy Annual Meeting

Where? Medford Leas, Medford, NJ

When? 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- 9:30 Medford Leas Nature Trail hike
- 10:30 Light refreshments
- 11:00 Business meeting and Conservancy update  
Presentation of Mark Thomas Award to William H. Pettit
- 11:30 Speaker: Bob Birdsall, nature photographer  
and author of "People of the Pines"

*Come learn about our work and share your ideas with us*

## Everyone is Welcome!

# Friendship Creek Preserve

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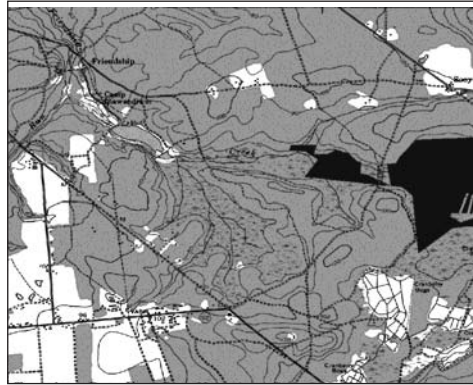
manent preservation of pristine natural resources.”

John Flynn, Administrator of the NJDEP Green Acres Program added, “The NJDEP Green Acres Program was happy to work with non-profit partners as well as the Office of Natural Resource Restoration to preserve this property.”

“Complex partnerships like the one at Friendship Creek Preserve are how land preservation gets done in New Jersey,” said Michele Byers, Executive Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

“We are always happy to offer technical assistance to other land trusts throughout the state to help preserve important properties like this one.

“This project illustrates the importance of passage of Question #3 on the ballot this



November. Passage of Question #3 would provide stopgap funding for the Garden State Preservation Trust, which is currently out of money, and enable continued preservation of our precious open spaces like Friendship Creek,” added Byers.

## Conservancy Supports Medford Canoe Trail

By Peter Rocco

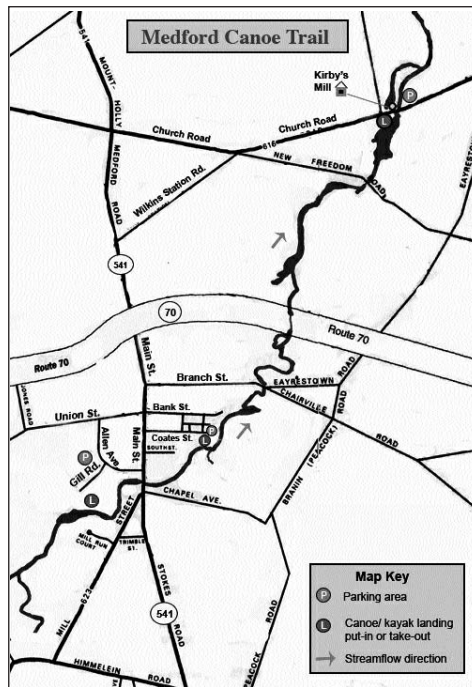
The Rancocas Conservancy is proud to have been involved with the creation of the Medford Canoe Trail, which formally opened on July 28th.

The 2.5 mile stretch of navigable stream begins in Medford Park and is accessible from Gill Road off Allen Avenue. The most convenient access point within the park is at the base of Coates Street where picnic facilities, a playground and parking are close to the launch site. The trail ends at a landing at Kirby's Mill on Church Road. In good weather, with average stream conditions, the Mill can be reached in about an hour. One-way downstream trips are an easy way to enjoy an outing on the water. The return trip, against the current, takes about an hour and a half. A round trip, starting at Kirby's Mill or at the park, makes a nice half-day outing.

The trail is tranquil as it winds past horse farms, forest, and historic properties. The ease of navigation makes it a venue for conservancy members, as well as the general public, to enjoy a short paddle.

The Township had discussed clearing obstructions from the creek for some time, but in 2005 Medford resident Bernie Mayer organized a volunteer effort.

Since that time, the volunteer effort has included the removal of several obstructions, development of landing sites, community events such as paddle days, and the creation of trail maps and other publicity. This project, and our involvement with it, supports the Conservancy's mission of raising awareness of the watershed, conservation, and the recreation opportunities within our neighbor-



hoods.

Several members of the Rancocas Conservancy Board of Trustees are also founding members of the canoe trail volunteer committee, and the Conservancy has also received a grant from Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) which was used for promotional support such as the printing costs for the official trail map. The Medford Township Council, Public Works Department, and Parks and Recreation Department were supportive of this project as well.

Bring your own boat or rent from an area outfitter this fall to explore this local gem.

For further information point your browser to <http://medfordcanoetrail.wordpress.com/>.

### RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 2188  
Vincentown, NJ 08088  
(609) 859-8860, Ext. 17  
[rancocas@bigfoot.com](mailto:rancocas@bigfoot.com)

#### MISSION

The purpose of the Rancocas Conservancy is to preserve, protect, and enhance the ecological and cultural integrity of the Rancocas Creek Watershed.

#### GOALS

1) To act as the land trust for the Rancocas Creek Watershed accepting donations of land and conservation easements, acquiring land deemed suitable for permanent protection, and for transferring land to other entities for appropriate conservation management

2) To propose, advocate, and carry out cooperative conservation strategies among the citizenry, public and private sectors in the Rancocas Creek Watershed and adjacent areas

3) To educate the citizenry, public and private sectors about the ecological and cultural heritage of the Rancocas Creek Watershed

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# Watershed Wisdom

## Our new invasive: HYDRILLA

There have been reports of a new invasive plant species in lakes along the Rancocas Creek. This plant is hydrilla which is native to Australia, Asia and central Africa. While it is a significant problem in most coastal states, it has not been recorded in New Jersey until now.

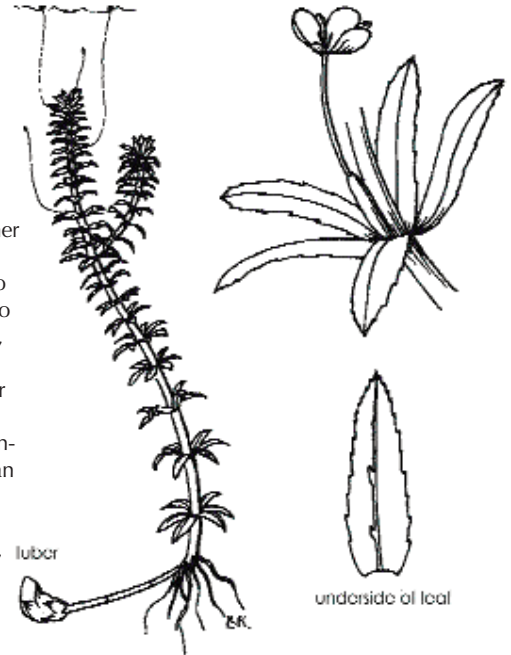
Hydrilla is a submersed perennial aquatic plant with heavily branching, erect stems. Leaves occur in whorls of three to eight and join directly to the stem. Leaf margins are visibly toothed and the underside may have one or more spines. Propagation occurs through stem fragmentation and the production of tubers.

Due to its ability to spread rapidly and clog waterways, hydrilla poses significant threats to aquatic ecosystems and recreational resources. Hydrilla reduces diversity by outcompeting native aquatic plants and dense infestations can

affect water quality and impede water flow, resulting in flooding and damage to shorelines. Thick mats of hydrilla make swimming and other activities difficult, if not impossible.

Hydrilla is one of the most difficult plants to control once established. Widely used means to control it include the use of aquatic herbicides, dredging, mechanical harvesting, suction harvesting and drawdown followed by dredging or fumigation for tuber removal.

If you see hydrilla in a waterway, please contact the Rancocas Conservancy so its spread can be controlled. You also can prevent establishment by selecting non-invasive plants for your ornamental ponds, and never dump your aquarium water outside or into any waterway.



### Just Say No... To Dimilin!

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend its regulations to allow aerial spraying of Dimilin on state and private lands to control gypsy moth caterpillars. The Rancocas Conservancy strongly opposes this move.

Dimilin (diflubenzuron) is an

insect growth regulator, which is classified as a Restricted Use Pesticide by EPA due to its severe toxicity to aquatic organisms and other hazards to wildlife. Research has shown that Dimilin degrades more slowly in acidic waters, like those in the Pines, and that the sandy soil of the region retains the pesticide longer than those with higher alkalinity (Willcox & Coffey, 1978). Given the many waterways and wetlands in the Pinelands, the use of Dimilin

poses a significant threat to aquatic ecosystems.

The use of Dimilin also raises health concerns for those who come in contact with it. New Jersey public policy for the past twenty years has generally not supported aerial application of broad spectrum pesticides over residential areas, yet that is where much of the spraying would occur.

The Conservancy recognizes the problems with gypsy moths, but believes that Bt (bacillus

theringiensis), a biological pesticide with no known mammalian toxicity, provides adequate protection from defoliation when properly applied, without the risks of Dimilin. Absent human intervention, gypsy moth populations rise and fall in cycles, and are subject to collapse due to a naturally occurring fungus and other factors.

Spraying has a questionable impact on the cycle and, in fact, some scientists believe spraying may actually prolong it.

- Please select your level of support*
- Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00
  - Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00
  - Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00
  - Patron \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100.00
  - Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 500.00
  - Steward \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00

**Please make your check payable to the Rancocas Conservancy**  
*Membership contributions are tax deductible*

**YES! I want to support the Rancocas Conservancy in their effort to preserve and protect the Rancocas Creek.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to volunteer my time to help the Rancocas Conservancy grow!**

In 1990, a group of concerned citizens formed the Rancocas Conservancy, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation to acquire, hold and preserve open space within the Rancocas Creek Watershed. We invite you to participate in the activities of the Conservancy. Please consider volunteering in a way you find personally rewarding. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Environmental Education
- Newsletter
- Special Events
- Membership
- Publicity/Media Relations
- Land Stewardship
- Fund Raising
- Municipal Liaison

**MAIL THIS FORM TO:**  
**RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY**  
**P.O. BOX 2188**  
**VINCENTOWN**  
**NJ 08088**