



## **ANJEC 2014 & 2015 Annual Report**

### **MISSION & ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

Since its founding in 1969, ANJEC has supported the efforts of environmental commissions (ECs), open space committees, green teams and other local officials protecting the environment on the municipal level. Working with local governments throughout New Jersey, ANJEC has become a spokesperson for local interests in regional and state environmental policy and often helps environmental commissions to see the local ramifications of actions taken at the regional or state level.

ANJEC's mission is to achieve responsible and sustainable use of New Jersey's natural resources through leadership, education, and support of environmental commissions and other local boards, public officials, environmental organizations and concerned citizens. Our goals are to establish and support environmental commissions, educate local officials and concerned citizens on environmental issues, advocate appropriate public policies and coordinate the efforts of organizations working for protection of environmental resources.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

#### *Organizational Leadership*

The past two years have been brought transition and growth for ANJEC. In 2014, Sandy Batty retired from her service as Executive Director, after dedicating 29 years to ANJEC and environmental commissioners across the Garden State. ANJEC's Board of Trustees launched a search for a new Executive Director to lead ANJEC and guide EC's through the emerging environmental challenges.

In July 2014, the Board selected Jennifer M. Coffey, who came to ANJEC after 10 years of service as the Watershed Management and Policy Director of central New Jersey's oldest watershed protection organization, the Stony-Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. Jennifer chaired Upper Freehold Township's Environmental Commission for seven years and also served as the common member on the Planning Board. Jennifer serves as the watershed representative to the New Jersey State Water Supply Advisory Council, and is a member of the New Jersey Society of Women Environmental Professionals. She holds a bachelor's degree in Communications from Stockton University and dual master's degrees in Environmental Policy and Environmental Science from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

An ANJEC dinner held in honor of Sandy's retirement raised approximately \$50,000, which funded the establishment of the Sandy Batty Open Space Stewardship Grant Fund. This grant fund began providing seed money to ECs in 2015 to construct trails, fight invasive species, install pollinator gardens, and more. This grant program is an evolution of ANJEC's previous grants to ECs that focused on planning. We are proud of this transition from planning to action.

ANJEC continues to implement the strategic plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2013. In 2015, members of ANJEC's Board and Executive Director completed the Board and Executive Director Leadership training series offered by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation with education provided by the LaSalle Center for Nonprofits. Upon completion of the trainings, ANJEC was awarded a matching grant to pursue our strategic plan objective of growing and diversifying our funding sources. In 2015, ANJEC hired a consultant from the LaSalle Center for Nonprofits to help us analyze our fundraising and build a plan to support our future organizational needs.

#### *Programs, Workshops, and EC Resources*

ANJEC has continued to offer workshops and programs in response to EC requests and in light of emerging environmental issues. In 2014 and 2015, attendance at the annual Environmental Congress doubled that of recent previous years. The themes, *Environmental Leadership* and *Fixing NJ's Water Woes* drew sold out crowds of 215+ for keynote speakers Governor Tim Waine, EPA Region II Administrator Judith Enck, and DC Water CEO & GM George Hawkins. Both conferences included a strong focus on clean water, flooding, and open space.

ANJEC's annual course, Foundations for Effective Environmental Commissions, in March continues to draw new and veteran EC members. In 2016, ANJEC saw the largest enrollment of ECs to date with approximately 160 attendees.

In addition to continuing to offer and enhance our traditional programming, including the Environmental Congress, Commissioners' course and our quarterly magazine, the *ANJEC Report*, we have expanded and added new services. We have enhanced the *ANJEC News*, launched in 2013 to provide a time-saving digest of environmental news, the *ANJEC News* now includes pages for one stop shopping for action alerts on state and county issues, announcements for upcoming workshops and events hosted by ANJEC, partner organizations and ECs, and timely resources for local action on environmental issues.

#### *New Initiatives*

ANJEC also launched new efforts to promote positive action on emerging environmental issues. ANJEC has joined the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, a bold initiative to protect and restore the watershed, which provides drinking water to more than 15 million people in four states, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The William

Penn Foundation has invested \$35 million in this initiative and 50 leading nonprofits are working to prioritize watershed protection and restoration and coordinate their efforts. Of the eight “cluster” areas funded by the William Penn Foundation, ANJEC is funded to work in both New Jersey clusters, the NJ Highlands and Pinelands. Our efforts include empowering ECs to test water quality, launch community education efforts on septic system management and water conservation, and construct green infrastructure projects such as raingardens to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

ANJEC also joined the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s *Trash Free Waters Initiative*. Researchers estimate that by the year 2050, the total weight of single use plastic and other trash in our waterways will equal that of fish in the ocean<sup>1</sup> if we remain on the current trajectory. Solutions to growing beyond stream cleanups and beach sweeps and reducing litter before its starts to travel towards our ocean are most achievable at the local level. ANJEC is excited to work with ECs to restore our ocean.

ANJEC believes more than ever that *Local Environment Matters*. We have seen the impact that concerned citizens, armed with a strategy and knowledge, can make when fighting to protect a forest, restore a stream bank, support the comeback of declining pollinator populations, promote cleaner air and water in the name of children and overall public health, and more. At ANJEC, we stand in awe of what ECs accomplish, and we are honored to empower them with the resources they need to protect and restore the natural environment in their communities.

## **GRANT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **2014 Grants for Environmental Commissions**

- Hillsdale, Norwood and Verona, *Restoring and Improving Local Trails*
- Franklin (Gloucester) and Woodstown, *Planting Vegetation to Enhance Parks, Increase Habitat, and Reduce Goose Droppings and Sediment Runoff Around Local Waterways*
- Pitman, *Lake Cleanup and Community Education the Importance of Open Space Preservation*
- Madison Borough, *Removing Invasive Plants*
- New Brunswick and Hillsdale, *Publishing Open Space Guides*
- Hopewell (Mercer), *Updating Conservation Easements Inventory and Outreach to Property Owners.*
- Commercial Township, *Installing Identification, Directional and Interpretive Signage to increase resident use and appreciation of a 25-acre lake park, and*

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The New Plastic Economy, Rethinking the Future of Plastics; World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, with analytical support from McKinsey & Company, January 2016.

*Training Staff and Volunteers in Maplewood and Neighboring South Orange on Organic Turf Field Maintenance.*

- Eatontown, Fair Haven and Peapack-Gladstone, Mapping Trails, Environmental Features, Significant Trees Using GPS to Make Maps and Guides and Inventorying the Condition of Resources on Open Space Tracts.

**2015 Sandy Batty Open Space Grants for Environmental Commissions**

- Allentown Borough - *AEC Heritage Park Planting*
- Alloway Township - *Invasives 1.0*
- Brick Township - *Lake Riviera Habitat Awareness*
- Caldwell Borough - *Native Pollinator Plant Garden*
- Frenchtown Borough - *Frenchtown's Open Space Summer*
- Haddon Heights Township – *Town-wide Open Space Map*
- Holland Township - *Trails Network Project*
- Hope Township - *Walking Trail at Swayze Mill Park*
- Liberty Township - *Mountain Lake Stewardship Education*
- Mansfield Twp. (Warren) - *Carreratta Park Hiking Enhancements*
- Monroe Twp. (Middlesex) - *Butterfly Park*
- Ocean City - *Demonstration Dune Planting Project*
- South Orange Village - *Your Open Space Ecological Address*
- Tenafly Borough - *Nature Trail Assessment/Inventory*
- Tewksbury Township - *Water Chestnut Eradication, Phase 2*
- Waterford Township - *Stop Illegal Park Dumping Campaign*
- West Orange Township - *Arboretum Planting Plan for 'The Rock'*
- Wyckoff Township - *Monarch Way Station and Native Plant Garden*

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations all contribute to ANJEC's fundraising efforts. These generous donations help us continue to reach, inform, and empower environmentalists throughout NJ. Highlights for 2014 & 2015 include:

**Board support:** In keeping with the best management practice of board giving, ANJEC trustees donated \$20,378 and \$17,425 in 2014 and 2015, respectively. This giving represents 91 percent and 100 percent giving in 2014 and 2015; 2014 board giving was less than 100 percent because one board member chose to leave the board at the end of his term due to a conflict and another board member suffered personal ailments.

**Events:** ANJEC held garden party themed fundraises with food and silent auctions at Fernbrook Farms in Burlington County and the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association in Mercer County in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

ANJEC also booked sailings on the AJ Meerwald, New Jersey's official Tall Ship, on the Hudson River out of Alpine NJ. ANJEC received a portion of the ticket price as a donation.

**Earth Share New Jersey:** ANJEC continued its affiliation with Earth Share New Jersey. This group, which encourages giving through payroll deductions, offers another way to support the environment and raise awareness about environmental issues.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### 2014 Support & Revenue

Grants	\$445,471
Membership	\$77,275
Educational Activities	\$40,935
Publications	\$338
Contributions	\$156,486
Special Events	\$8,915
Interest	\$ 7,775
Board designated investment return	\$4,196
Other	\$ 6,201
Total	\$ 747,592

### 2014 Expenses

Program	\$479,931	74%
Envl Group Coordination	\$41,526	6%
Management & General	\$95,702	15%
Fundraising	\$33,736	5%
Total	\$650,895	

## 2015 Support & Revenue

Grants	\$420,536
Membership	\$80,370
Educational Activities	\$35,435
Publications	\$438
Contributions	\$ 85,443
Special Events	\$7,755
Interest	\$7,826
Board designated investment return	\$4,937
Other	\$ 1,927
Total	\$ 644,667

## 2015 Expenses

Program:	\$505,988	75.5%
Envl Group Coordination	\$43,641	6.5%
Management & General	\$85,970	13%
Fundraising	\$32,951	5%
Total	\$668,550	

## **Foundation Support**

### 2014

Bunbury Company, Environmental Endowment NJ, Fund for NJ, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, National Fish & Wildlife Fdn, Victoria Foundation, Wallerstein Institute, William Penn Foundation, Hyde & Watson Foundation, Leavens Foundation, Peter & Cynthia Kellogg Fdn, Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Fdn, Richard & Jane Wallace Foundation

### 2015

Bunbury Company, Environmental Endowment NJ, Fund for NJ, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, National Fish & Wildlife Fdn, Victoria Foundation, Wallerstein Institute, William Penn Foundation, William Penn Foundation, Head Family Foundation, Hyde & Watson Foundation, Leavens Foundation, Peter & Cynthia Kellogg Foundation, Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Fdn, Academy of Natural Science, EJ Grassman, Richard & Jane Wallace Fnd

## **Corporate Support**

### 2014

Atlantic City Electric, Church & Dwight, Investors Savings Bank, NJ Natural Gas, PSEG, Wakefern Food Corporation

### 2015

Atlantic City Electric, Church & Dwight, Wakefern Food Corporation

## **2014 – 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**President:** Nancy Tindall, Navaid Management Services, Inc.

**Vice President of Operations:** Ray Cywinski, United Water Company; Mayor of Demarest

**Vice President of Development:** Barbara Vadnais, Muirhead Foods

**Treasurer:** Leonard Berkowitz, Retired Chemical Engineer, Chair Berkeley Heights Environmental Comm.

**Secretary:** Marion McClary, Jr., professor, Farleigh Dickinson University

**Past President:** Nelson Dittmar, Jr., retired PricewaterhouseCoopers, current Chair Cranford Environmental Commission

### **Member Trustees**

Nicholas D'Ambrosio, Environmental & GIS Specialist

Victor DeVasto, Gloucester Soil Conservation District

Lee Farnham, Wells Fargo Advisors, Chair Ewing Environmental Commission

Thomas Gibbons, Client Program Manager, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure

Liti Haramaty, Laboratory Researcher, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers

Marshall Keener, Covanta Energy

Clifford Lundin, Esq., Sussex County Soil Conservation Service, Chair Hopatcong Open Space Committee

Cinny MacGonagle, Retired teacher

Kenneth Avery Miller, President of Intelligent Earth Services

Amanda Nesheiwat, Secaucus Environmental Coordinator

Gary Szelc, P.E., Casey & Keller; Chair of Fanwood Environmental Commission

Jenine Tankoos,; Chair, Environmental Commission, Manalapan Township, Independent Associate and Chair of Sustainability Council, Viridian

John A. Thonet, Thonet Associates

Arnold Vernick, Consulting Environmental Engineer

### **2014 STAFF**

Sandy Batty, Executive Director (Jan:June)

Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director (July: Dec)

Kerry Miller, Assistant Director

Karen Buchanan, Financial Manager

Chrissie Larson, Development Director

Nadini Checko, Rsource Center

Elizabeth Ritter, Office Manager

Jody Carrara, Coaltal Planning Director

Dave Peifer, Highlands Director

Cheryl Reardon, South Jersey Bayshore Director

Julie Groth, Media and Communications Manager

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Kerry Miller, Assistant Director

Karen Buchanan, Financial Manager

Chrissie Larson, Development Director

Nadini Checko, Resource Center

Elizabeth Ritter, Office Manager

Jody Carrara, Coastal Planning Director

Dave Peifer, Highlands Director

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