

March 6, 2022

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for the Friends of NJ School of Conservation to become the permanent managers of The School of Conservation.

This group has done a fantastic job of unlocking the natural environmental beauty and history of this area, by offering such interesting and educational classes, to the public.

My family and I have always felt lucky to live so close to Stokes State Forest and visit often for its trails and swimming at Stony Lake. In fact, my middle children learned to swim at a 2-week program offered at Stony Lake through the Forestry service over 34 years ago. However, this past year was the first that we came across some of the programs that the current Friends of NJSC have offered. From the first one I attended with other family members, we were hooked and excited to attend the many varied programs they offer.

The instructors, besides being extremely knowledgeable, offered a familial sense of camaraderie, which added to our satisfaction in the classes, which in turn, has led to signing up for more classes, and spreading the word to others.

I have become a member and look forward to taking part in many more classes, and with my retirement looming the end of this year, would like to be able to offer my services as a volunteer to keep this inspiring and needed organization running.

I would not have done so, if not for the dedicated challenging work of the Friends of NJSC in restoring and preserving this organization.

Sincerely,

Concetta Martinez