

The New Jersey School of Conservation 75th Anniversary Celebration

June 1, 2024



Welcome Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I was five years old when I first passed through the entrance of the NJSOC. It was nighttime and my family and I had traveled from Ann Arbor, Michigan to New Jersey so my dad, Dr. John J. Kirk, could begin what would be the start of an historic and purposeful 37 career directing the NJSOC.

I was dozing in the back of our Ford Station Wagon. I remember seeing the dark gnarly shapes of hundreds of trees and feeling a little scared. The next morning my mom sent me outside of the Staff Lodge to play. I stepped out into an abundance of leafy greenery, sunshine and the sweet blended fragrance of soil, flowers, trees, mushrooms, animals and life. It was magical and I fell in love instantly. This love for the NJSOC has endured for more than 60 years. And it is this love that motivated me to work with the Friends of the NJSOC to save it from closure so that others could come here and come to love it too.

Over the last three years, I have pondered the ingredients that led to the Friends success in saving the NJSOC – Colin Powell said, “A dream doesn’t become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, DETERMINATION and hard work.”

When programming at the NJSOC was paused in July 2021 by its previous managers, the Friends were DETERMINED to take on the seemingly insurmountable task of Saving the NJSOC. Three more ingredients helped us - relationships, reputation and resources. Over the course of the NJSOC’s 75 years, we have made connections with people across the

state, country and world. These RELATIONSHIPS combined with our REPUTATION of delivering innovative and quality education programs, provided us with legions of Friends who offered support, expertise, guidance and funding. This combined with the RESOURCES provided by our legislator champions were the ingredients for our success.

Today, we celebrate 75 glorious and significant years - from our humble beginnings as an outdoor education field center to a global influencer in the field of environmental education to a survivor of a near closure several times, to a beacon of hope and a welcoming place of inclusion for all people. If it had not been for all of you and our Champions in the state legislature, Senators John McKeon and Bob Smith, and the support of Governor Phil Murphy and the NJDEP, we might not be here celebrating today.

But there is one more ingredient that unequivocally helped us succeed and which I think General Powell underestimated when describing the elements of a successful campaign. It’s something everyone feels and remains with them years after their visit here—MAGIC.

“Magic exists,” says author, Nora Roberts. “Who can doubt it, when there are rainbows and wildflowers, the music of the wind and the silence of the stars? Anyone who has loved has been touched by magic. It is such a simple and such an extraordinary part of the lives we live.”

Happy 75th Anniversary NJSOC family!!! Enjoy this special day as we celebrate the past, are grateful for the present and look forward to a very bright future! Wishing you much Magic always!

In Friendship,

Kerry Kirk Pflugh
Executive Director, NJSOC

Welcome Letter from the President of the Friends of NJSOC



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the New Jersey School of Conservation's 75th Anniversary celebration!

This event brings together committed educators and environmental stewards from all

across our state to support our mission. We are thrilled that you have traveled to our campus to affirm our history and commit to inspiring the next generations of conservation leaders.

You will have the opportunity to experience the natural ecology we are home to, visit our newly upgraded and advanced facilities improvements, and discover the learning programs we are preparing for students who come to us this summer and fall. Our staff is here to help you and share with you their wide-ranging expertise.

The School of Conservation is proud of recent decisions and developments at our school, including:

- Hiring lifelong conservationist, civil servant, and environmental advocate Kerry Kirk Pflugh as our Executive Director;
- Upgrading our facilities by fixing roofs, rebuilding chimneys, painting walls, refurbishing adult living spaces for visiting scholars, replacing fencing around the corral that we use for stargazing, orienteering, and recreational activities, and overhauling "Big Timbers," our largest eating hall;
- Enhancing accessibility by upgrading lighting, Wi-Fi, technology and upgraded spaces for wheelchair users and those with mobility challenges.

The Friends are particularly proud of our work to fully resume our programming, including overnight trips from schools across the state, after taking over as managers of the school after saving it from closure in the early days of the pandemic.

We could not continue to thrive as we have for 75 years without your continued enthusiasm, support, and engagement. We hope that you see the School of Conservation as a lifelong home for you and for your community.

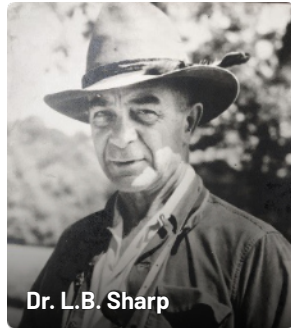
Sincerely,

Jennifer Coffey

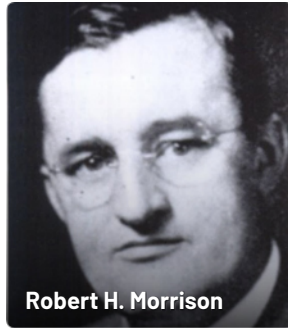
*President, Board of Directors for the
Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation*

Dedication

This NJSOC 75th Anniversary Celebration is dedicated to our Founders and Directors who not only built the NJSOC but significantly contributed to the growth and development of Environmental Education in our State, our Country, and the World.



Dr. L.B. Sharp



Robert H. Morrison

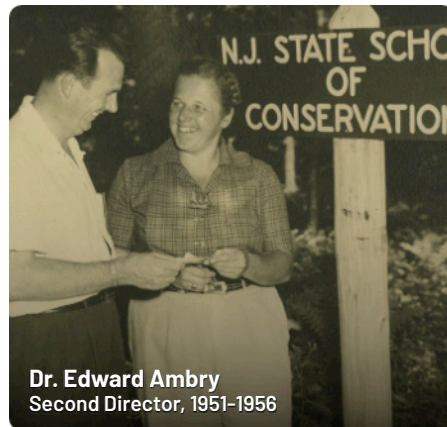


Sen. Alfred Littell

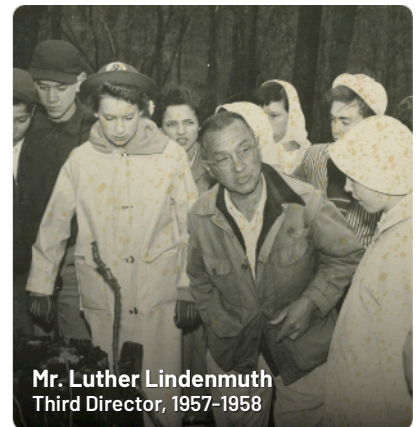
The legendary Dr. L.B. Sharp, famous for the National Life Camps, saw potential in the abandoned camp as an outdoor education field center for the state. He, along with a group of educators and Assistant Commissioner of Higher Education Robert H. Morrison led by Senator Alfred Littell convinced Governor Alfred Driscoll of the value of such an education center. Their successful campaign led to the establishment of the NJSOC and the opening of its doors for the first time on Memorial Weekend in 1949.



Dr. De Alton Partridge
First Director, 1949-1951



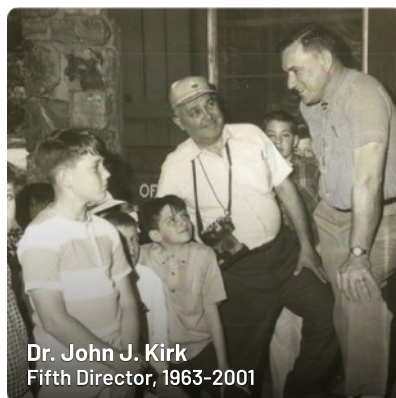
Dr. Edward Ambry
Second Director, 1951-1956



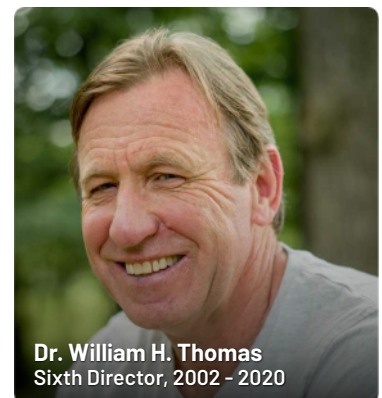
Mr. Luther Lindenmuth
Third Director, 1957-1958



Mr. Clifford Emanuelson
Fourth Director, 1958-1963



Dr. John J. Kirk
Fifth Director, 1963-2001



Dr. William H. Thomas
Sixth Director, 2002 - 2020

NJSOC 75th Anniversary Weekend Program

Friday, May 31, 2024

1:00 – 5:00 pm	Arrival, Free time
6:00 pm	BBQ at Piney Point
7:00 pm	Campfire, s'mores, music
8:00 pm	Star Gazing at Kirk's Corral

Saturday, June 1, 2024

8:30–8:45 am	Flag Ceremony at Long House Led by NJ Youth Corps Phillipsburg
9:00 am	Check-in at Kittatinny Hall
9:30–11:30 am	Panel Presentation: Evolution of Environmental Education to Climate Change Education Moderator: Kerry Kirk Pflugh , <i>Executive Director, NJSOC</i> Panelists: Sean Spiller , <i>President NJEA</i> Lauren Madden , <i>Professor of Elementary Science Education, The College of New Jersey</i> Sara Sterling-Ladlee , <i>Senior Climate Change Education Advisor, NJ Department of Education</i> Tanya Sulikowski , <i>Director of Education, NJSOC</i> Paul Kirk , <i>Climate Change Lobby</i>
12:00–1:00 pm	Social hour at Deer Lodge Music by Michael Patrick
1:00–2:00 pm	Luncheon in Big Timbers Keynote Speaker and Award Presentations Welcome: Kerry Kirk Pflugh , <i>Executive Director, NJSOC</i> Blessing: Chief Vincent Mann , <i>Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation</i> Toast: Paul G. Kirk , <i>Board of Trustee</i> Keynote: Shawn LaTourette , <i>Commissioner, NJDEP</i> Pioneer Award: Jackie Russell Patterson
2:00–5:00 pm	SOC Activity Sampler Archery, Fiber and/or candles, Metalsmithing, Boating, Water ecology
5:00 pm	Campfire with song leader Michael Patrick.

Sunday, June 2, 2024

7:30 –9:00 am	Vagabond Breakfast at Big Timbers
9:30 –10:00 am	Fellowship at Deer Lodge
10:30–Noon	Free time and depart

Panelists



Kerry Kirk Pflugh is the Executive Director for the New Jersey School of Conservation. She is responsible for the management, operations, programming and restoration and maintenance of this historic environmental education field center.

Previously, Ms. Pflugh held the position of executive director for the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. She was responsible for coordination of the non-profit's activities in concert with the President, executive Board and Board of Directors. Prior to working at the NJCM, Ms. Pflugh had a 35-year career at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the areas of social science, communications, constituent services and local government services. Ms. Pflugh is also the chair of the Warren County Environmental Advisory Committee, charged with advising the Warren County Commissioners on environmental matters in the county. She serves as a trustee on the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, Hackensack Riverkeeper and New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.

Ms. Pflugh's area of expertise is strategic communication planning focusing on citizen participation in environmental management decision-making. She is the recipient of numerous awards including: Cabinet Liaison of the Year, New Jersey Conference of Mayors, April, 2019 and the George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Professional and Civic Endeavors, April 2017, to name a few. She is a lifelong outdoorswoman and an avid adventure kayaker.



Sarah Sterling-Laldee is Senior Advisor on Climate Change Education for the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). In her role, she oversees NJDOE's Climate Change Education Unit, which supports the administration of \$4.5M in annual grants to schools,

green and blue career and workforce development, interagency partnerships, and advocacy strategy to support climate change education in K-12 for New Jersey's 1.4 million students.

Prior to joining NJDOE, Sarah had over twenty years of experience as an urban public-school teacher and central office administrator with a STEAM and sustainability focus. In this capacity, the out of school time programs that she led received national and international acclaim for their place-based approach to addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and their support of STEM career pipelines for urban youth. Most recently, she led the high school restructuring efforts for Paterson, NJ Public Schools, and supported the opening of Paterson's STEAM High School, which supports the city's first Sustainability career pathway.

Sarah also served as an Education Program Manager for Global Cities, Inc., where she managed the Global Scholars digital exchange program, co-authored interdisciplinary curriculum with a global competency and sustainability focus, developed and provided professional development for teachers in 35 countries, and offered targeted support to country leads, including Ministry of Education representatives and school leaders for a portfolio of global cities including Singapore, Taiwan, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, London, and Kazakhstan. Sarah is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Grenada, West Indies, '99-'01) and graduate of Rutgers University and NYU Steinhardt's Environmental Conservation Education MA program.



Sean Spiller, a high school science teacher in the Wayne public schools, is president of the New Jersey Education Association. Spiller was elected NJEA president in 2021, his term beginning on Sept.

1. Prior to his 2013 election to NJEA secretary-treasurer, Spiller served as an executive board member of the Passaic County Education Association (2005-2013). He also served as president (2007-2013) and negotiations team member of the Wayne Education Association. At NJEA, he was the chair of the Congressional Contact Committee, a member of the Urban Education Committee and an ethnic minority-at-large representative to the Delegate Assembly.

Spiller's focus as a leader, throughout his service for NJEA, has been on helping members become more involved at the community level in confronting the intersection of challenges that affect public education and school employees, students, and their families. He sees the burdens placed on families with student debt, limited access to health care and underfunded communities as critical issues. As NJEA president, he aims to strengthen public education in New Jersey by confronting systemic racism, and building equity for social, economic, gender and sexual identity, and racial justice.

Spiller and his wife Lauren, also a public school teacher and NJEA member, live with their two children in Montclair where, since 2012 he has served on the township council and in 2020 was elected mayor. He is also a member of the Montclair Business Improvement District, a member of the Montclair NAACP, the League of Women Voters and many other local groups and organizations.



Dr. Lauren Madden is a Professor of Elementary Science Education at The College of New Jersey. She holds a BA in Earth Sciences-Oceanography, MS in Marine Science and PhD in Science Education. Dr. Mad-

den's work advocates for scientific literacy and the health of our planet through teaching and learning.

Her research has been supported by grants from the New Jersey SeaGrant Consortium, National Science Foundation, and US Environmental Protection Agency. She has written a textbook on Elementary Science Teaching Methods along with more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. She was named the 2021 Outstanding Science Teacher Educator of the Year by the Association for Science Teacher Education and served as the inaugural iCAN STEM Role Model Award by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network.

In recent years, her work has focused directly on K-5 climate change education, and she was the lead author on the New Jersey School Boards' Association & Sustainable Jersey For Schools' Report on K-12 Climate Change Education Needs in New Jersey. Her expertise in climate change education in New Jersey has been featured prominently in many media outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian, NPR, and the Star Ledger.



Tanya Sulikowski's sixth grade field trip to the NJ-SOC inspired her career path as a field ecologist and classroom teacher. She returned to the school three more times: first as a Student Teacher in 1999, next as a Graduate Student

conducting macroinvertebrate research in the Flat Brook River in 2011, and finally as Faculty in 2018 until the school closed in 2020. Tanya is thrilled to make her final career stop as the NJSOC Director of Education.

In 2016 Tanya earned the Women in Wildlife Award for Education by the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ. She is a National Geographic Grosvenor Teaching Fellow and is currently working with a team of Nat Geo Explorers to launch the new MacroBlitz initiative.

During her off hours, she is an avid native plant and organic vegetable gardener and loves to hike, paddle, and explore the planet's wildest places with friends and her husband Bruce.



Paul Kirk is an active member of the Chester County Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization focused on local, national and international policies affecting

the global climate crisis. CCL is organized into hundreds of local chapters whose goal is to effectuate positive legislative action affecting climate issues such as carbon pricing, healthy forests, electrification and efficiency and clean energy permitting re-

forms among others. Paul has participated in lobbying days with his local elected representatives, attended regional CCL conferences and participated in CCL local community outreach programs.

Paul has also practiced law in Philadelphia, PA for the last 38 years. Paul has tried numerous cases to verdict in the courts throughout PA and NJ and has presented applications for injunctive relief in 22 states throughout the US. Paul is a member of NJ-SOC's Board of Trustees.



NJSOC Changemaker Awardees

Given to that educator who has advocated on behalf of their students to ensure they have the opportunity to experience learning in the natural environment.



Bob Locantore, has been the Health and P.E Teacher at Wenonah Public School for 35 years. He has coordinated the Wenonah School 6th grade trip to the SOC for 26 years.

When he isn't teaching and taking students to Stokes, he is a gymnastics coach for Rainbow Gymnastics in Sewell, N.J. Bob is also the President of the Garden State Chorale and is a Cantor in his Church. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Karen and son, Nicholas. His hobbies include: hiking, sports, music and having a good pizza!



Devon Kallen, a dedicated educator with 24 years of experience, has been a cornerstone of health and physical education at Somers Point Schools. As both a seasoned teacher and Athletic Director, she

has tirelessly championed the importance of fitness and well-being. Beyond her professional roles, De-

von is a loving mother to three boys, a passionate fitness enthusiast, a certified personal trainer and swim instructor. She generously shares her expertise as a Track & Field Coach and devotes time to the Board of the Family Association of Northfield & Mainland Football Boosters, amplifying her community influence. With a deep love for nature and the beach, Devon finds solace and inspiration in the outdoors, further fueling her dedication to promoting wellness within her community.



Beth Hansen has been a 6th and 7th grade Science Teacher in the Upper Freehold Regional School District in Allentown, NJ since 2005. She has been lead coordinator of the 7th Grade overnight environmental trip for Allentown

for the last 13 years. Over the years, she has been invited to work independently with the professors from Montclair State University and resident scientists completing work in the field at Stokes. Beth was invited as a NJSOC Fellow and Teacher Scholar through separate grants from National Geo-

graphic on three separate occasions between October of 2018 and January of 2020. When the School of Conservation was temporarily closed down in 2020, Beth got to work on multiple letter writing campaigns to state representatives that included hand-crafted lessons and hundreds of letters that were mailed out, stressing the importance and necessity of the School of Conservation. When planning this year's environmental trip, Beth insisted that her school return to the place where it all began. After a 5 year absence, Allentown returned to the NJSOC for an amazing trip in March of 2024!

Beth is also proud of her work as a co-advisor to Stone Bridge Middle School's Student Council. Annual donations of roughly \$13,000 to the NJ State Charity, the V foundation and other local charities win Stone Bridge honors ranging from 1st-3rd in the State by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils. The council also collects, organizes and donates 50 complete turkey dinners to local families in need. This is an accomplishment and task that sheds light on the very important issue of food insecurity, which is near and dear to Beth's heart.



Katherine (KC) Bree, is finishing her 13th year working for Garwood Public Schools. Her undergraduate degree is in Accounting with a double minor in Education and Human Resources from Villanova

University. KC pursued a business career while establishing a growing family. When her youngest child was diagnosed with ADHD and then high-functioning autism (Asperger's Syndrome), she made a dramatic career change. She worked as a paraprofessional assisting with physical education classes and with social intervention during lunches and recess at her son's elementary and middle school. Once he was successfully leaving for high school, KC couldn't leave her newly found love of teaching. She obtained her Masters Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Phoenix and obtained her double New Jersey teaching certifications in middle school science and mathematics. KC has spent the last five years as the sole middle school science teacher in Garwood, NJ. Her favorite part of the job - the students!

She continues to work outside of the academic classroom with her students to assist coaching several teams, running spirit wear orders, and organizing community activities for her students to participate in Green Team adventures.



Rhiannon McElwee has worked at Stevens since July 2011 in various teaching and administrative roles and now holds the position of Director of Curriculum and Innovation. As part of her role, Rhiannon manages all

overnight field trips for 3rd-8th grade students. Stevens has a longstanding partnership with NJSOC and year after year our 8th grade graduates reminisce about their "Stokes" experience when delivering their graduation speeches. It is a beloved hallmark of the Stevens middle school experience.



Becky Coveney has worked at Stevens since September 2015 as the 5th and 8th grade Humanities teacher. As a 5th-grade teacher, Becky chaperoned five trips to NJSOC in the Fall and has experienced firsthand the insightful

and rewarding curriculum that is offered at Stokes. Seeing students develop a deeper understanding of their impact on the environment and collaborating with their peers is an essential part of the shared NJSOC and Stevens philosophy.



CAMP WAPALANNE

1950-1985



35 years of summer fun & friendships.

A lifetime of memories.



The alumni & friends of Camp Wapalanne congratulate and thank NJSOC for 75 years of making a difference in the out of doors.



Find your camp friends on Facebook!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/84025300444>

*The Kirk Family Congratulates the
New Jersey School of Conservation
on its 75th Anniversary!*

Wishing you many more years of providing
Environmental Education to Everyone Everywhere!



Dr. John J. Kirk

Director, New Jersey School of Conservation
1963-2001

"Yet, the School of Conservation is more than a unique educational facility, it is more than its 57 buildings, sparkling lake, exciting trout streams, lush forests and rolling hills. The New Jersey School of Conservation is all of these but much more; for it is a spirit, a dream, and a hope for the future that tends to enrich the lives of all those who are privileged to participate in its many varied programs. May it always be thus."

– Dr. John J. Kirk, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the NJSOC.

Community Organization Service Award

Given to that organization that performs exemplary service to the betterment of the NJSOC.


NJ Youth Corps of Phillipsburg



“To restore and preserve the dignity of high-potential Opportunity Youth who have been underserved, and enhance their value to society by providing an equitable program of academic instruction and community service that form a solid foundation upon which to build a brighter future.”

Created by legislation in 1984 (P.L. 1984, c. 198), New Jersey Youth Corps is designed to assist young adults (ages 16-25) who have left high school prior to completion with the skills needed to obtain a diploma and prepare for employment. The program combines community service “crew-based” projects with academic instruction in a service-learning environment, provides employability and life skills development, personal counseling, and transition services. The New Jersey Youth Corps program is nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, and received validation from the U.S. Department of Education as a replicable model. It is a state-administered, locally operated program.





NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

**NAIOP NJ congratulates the
NJ School of Conservation
on its 75th Anniversary.**

We support your mission and bold vision to lead the way in teacher training, student experiences and academic research focused on critical environmental priorities. Your work to help more become educated and dedicated environmental stewards meets a critical need for the State of NJ.

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, is the leading organization for developers, owners and related professionals in office, industrial and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP provides unparalleled industry networking and education, and advocates for effective legislation on behalf of our members. NAIOP advances responsible, sustainable development that creates jobs and benefits the communities in which our members work and live. NAIOP New Jersey is committed to improving the professionalism of the individual, the image of the industry and the quality of life in our communities.

NJSOC Pioneer Award

Given to that person who has significantly contributed to the development of the New Jersey School of Conservation.

Jackie Russell Patterson



Jackie Russell Patterson came to the New Jersey School of Conservation at a pivotal moment in our history. It was 1967, and she had just completed her Master's Degree at the University of Michigan and in September accepted a job as the Coordinator of School Programs at the NJSOC. That Fall, the NJSOC was notified by four of the six state teacher colleges that they would no longer be sending students for a required week-long program to fulfill their pre-service teacher training. The state colleges had decided to shift their academic focus from State Teacher Colleges to Liberal Arts Colleges. This meant that more than half of the NJSOC revenue base had been eliminated.

Fortunately, Jackie had come well prepared from her training to jump right into the situation and come up with a solution. Working with Director John J. Kirk, Jerry Schierloh and the wonderful staff at the NJSOC at the time, she created a business model, teaching method and approach to learning that is still in practice here today. Moving from a focus on college programming to an emphasis on elementary school programming and implementing the components of the emerging field of environmental educa-

tion that she had learned while a student of Dr. William Stapp, the father of environmental education, she helped the NJSOC become one of the first centers in the country to adopt this new learning paradigm. In the five years Jackie worked at the NJSOC, the elementary school client base rose 200%.

Some of her notable contributions include:

Emphasis on the four curriculum areas – humanities, social studies, natural science and outdoor pursuits.

Creation of the NJSOC Teacher's Manual which states, "Today, environmental studies include the total fabric of human knowledge and provides children with a better understanding of the total environment and assists them to become more enlightened citizens who are better prepared to meet future environmental problems and solve them for the betterment of mankind."

Extensive and targeted communication with NJSOC participating school coordinators.

Coordination of NJSOC sessions with school courses and programs in the home communities of participating schools.

Implementation of Community Surveys to infuse collected data into all NJSOC programming to make it relevant for the students.

Implementation of Orientation and Summation for every NJSOC program.

Initiation of the American Craft Heritage Program.

It is clear that her work not only shaped the philosophy and approach to learning at the NJSOC, but it helped to SAVE the NJSOC. **Jackie is truly the definition of an environmental educator and one of the NJSOC's preeminent Pioneers.**



Jackie's Story in her Words

My first introduction to the New Jersey School of Conservation was in the spring of 1962 when I was a sophomore at Paterson State College. At that time all state college students attended a one-week orientation to introduce us and encourage us to utilize the out of doors as we became teachers. The experience proved to be a lasting one for me. Upon graduation in June of 1964, I attended a training program with the National Rifle Association to enable me to become the first rifle and hunter safety instructor at Camp Wapalanne. I continued to work at Camp Wapalanne as Program Director through the summer of 1966. In addition, I served as Weekend Coordinator when there were school groups at SOC all during the year from 1964-1966.

In 1966, I attended the University of Michigan working with William B. Stapp to prepare me to become a member of the faculty of SOC as the Public School Coordinator. Our students were coming to us from increasingly urban areas with all kinds of issues relating to each community. To enable us to make our teaching at SOC relevant to each students' home community, I visited each town to gather information regarding all aspects of the local environment, including such things as water, air, and other environmental issues as well as historical, population, recreation and any other

applicable factors. This information was tabulated and shared with the other faculty members to enable them to relate what was being taught at SOC with the student's home environment.

As Public School Coordinator, I helped develop a balanced program with emphasis on a change in philosophy from outdoor education to that of environmental education. When requested, I visited the school before hand and often met with educators and parents to elicit support for the program. For those schools that came to the School of Conservation at various class levels, we developed sequential programs with different emphasis on learning.

To expand the social studies aspect of our programming, I attended a summer training program in Canada with Edna Blackburn of the Albion Hills Farm School. Students learned some of the responsibilities and jobs of the early New Jersey pioneers learning the necessity for knowledge of candle making, spinning, weaving and dyeing in order to outfit the family.

While that experience at the School of Conservation was many years ago, I remain committed to their goals and especially applaud the efforts of the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation in saving the school with their determination and dedication!

After marrying a sailor, I moved around a great deal thanks to the US Navy and now currently reside in Doylestown PA and am heavily involved in various dog sports with my faithful companion, Nell, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever (my 10th CBR).



Keynote Speaker

NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette



Shawn M. LaTourette was appointed by Governor Phil Murphy as New Jersey's Commissioner of Environmental Protection on June 14, 2021. He is responsible for formulating statewide

environmental policy while directing programs that protect public health and ensure the quality of New Jersey's air, land, water, and natural and historic resources.

A lawyer and policymaker with more than 20 years of experience in environmental protection, Commissioner LaTourette began his career defending victims of toxic exposure, including organizing and advocating for the needs of vulnerable New Jersey communities whose drinking water was contaminated by petrochemicals. Commissioner LaTourette

has developed and led initiatives that prioritize environmental justice while facilitating greenhouse gas emissions reductions, climate change resilience and adaptation, renewable energy deployment, water infrastructure enhancement, brownfields redevelopment, community renewal, and natural resource conservation and restoration. Guided by a deep commitment to equity and a professional philosophy that uniting economic development and environmental improvement promotes the public good, Commissioner LaTourette has been regarded as a consensus builder adept at achieving balance among competing priorities. His diverse background — in protecting vulnerable communities, facilitating the development of infrastructure and public works, managing business risk, promoting conservationist policies and advocating for equity — has made him a leading force in policy, program and project development, especially those at the complex juncture of economic development, energy and environmental protection.

Luncheon Blessing

Chief Vincent Mann



Chief Vincent Mann is the Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Lunape Nation, NJ-NY. Chief Mann has held the title of Turtle Clan Chief for more than a decade. In that time, he participated in the construction and implementa-

tion of a community health survey focused on identifying and addressing health concerns within his community.

Chief Mann has been at the forefront of the New Jersey environmental justice movement, where he has worked to protect the water supply of 4 million people and advocated for the community living in close proximity to the Ringwood mines superfund site. He and Clan Mother Michaeline Picaro Mann founded the Munsee Three Sisters Medicinal Farm in 2020 to revive food sovereignty for his Clan. Chief Mann is a trustee of the Highlands Coalition. He collaborates with universities and regularly lectures on the importance of indigenous knowledge, earning recognition for his dedicated service to his community and the environment.



Honoring 75 Years of Inspiring Environmental Stewardship

FSC Exchange Services applauds the New Jersey School of Conservation for 75 years of educating and inspiring generations.

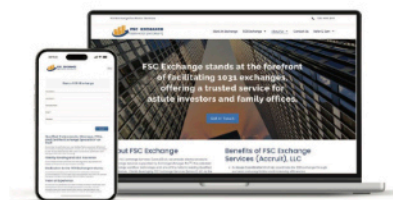


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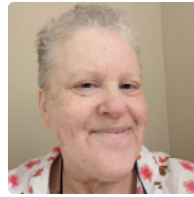
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Celebrates the NJSOC on its
75th Anniversary.**



**We honor the rich history of the NJSOC as
we build a bridge to its future!**



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