



July Newsletter

Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

Last month, when it counted most, you came through to support the New Jersey School of Conservation.

Thank you for ensuring our successful advocacy for our school and community of environmental educators. Governor Sherrill and the legislature heard your voice and took action to support NJSOC in the years ahead.

[See our Thank You message from the Friends of NJSOC here.](#)

Thanks to the tens of thousands of emails, letters and phone calls you sent in, Governor Sherrill and our champions in the Legislature worked together to secure \$1.3 million in operating funding that will be used to keep NJSOC open for the coming year.

And as important, we also won the opportunity to apply for state capital funding to help bring our nearly century-old campus up to a state of good repair. This investment will help reverse

decades of disinvestment. It will enable us to fix our leaky roofs, modernize our aging electrical systems, address accessibility issues and reopen bathhouses and dormitories — ensuring our campus is ready to meet the educational needs of the thousands of students who pass through our doors each year.

Please take a few moments to **communicate your gratitude and thank your elected officials** so they know how important their vote was to you in making sure that we continue to educate students, empower teachers and lead cutting-edge conservation research programming.

[Please click the "Thank Your Lawmakers!" button below to thank your legislators for their vigorous action to support environmental education in New Jersey.](#)

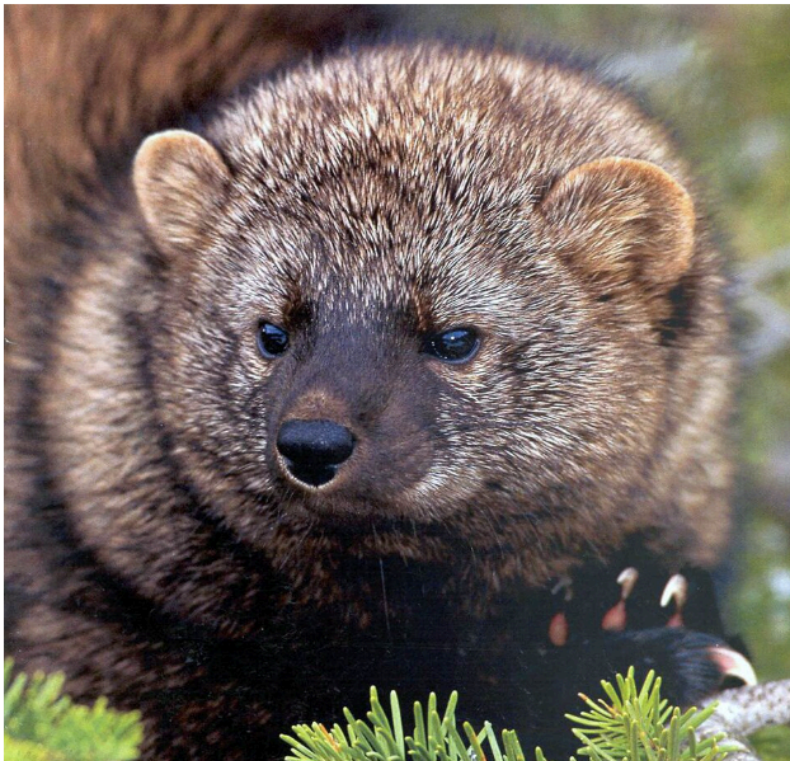
Thank you again for supporting our school. Together we will make sure that the future stays bright for NJSOC for years to come!

Sincerely,



Kerry Kirk Pflugh,
Executive Director

Thank Your Lawmakers!



Camera Installed to Support DEP Fish and Wildlife's Fisher Research

Thanks to countless partnerships and collaborations across New Jersey, NJSOC's campus is the home of numerous research projects that advance understanding in so many areas of science.

A few years ago, New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife installed cameras on our campus to document the presence of fishers, members of the weasel family that have reappeared in the state of New Jersey over the past two decades.

Along with GPS collar tracking, camera installations north of Route 80 and west of Interstate 287 have allowed NJ Fish and Wildlife to learn more about the fisher's behavior and tendencies—and to correct common misunderstandings about the animal.

Fishers are tree-climbing animals that range over long distances. They are omnivores and eat vegetation, nuts, fruit, and small prey. Despite a reputation as a fierce animal, Senior Biologist Peter Stark says that his research has not found that to be the case. There have been very few instances of conflict reported to NJF&W between humans and fishers, who tend to avoid areas frequented by humans.

Overall, three fishers were recorded crossing the NJSOC campus at one point or another during the data collection period. With much of the surveying and data collection complete, Stark says the project is moving into the analysis phase. He says that the project will likely advance understanding not only of fishers, but of any species that are detected by the project cameras—including bobcats or coyotes or gray foxes.

"Capturing fishers on camera at NJSOC and being able to track collared individuals has been very useful for our project," Stark says. "With our fisher detection on camera there and allowing us to track collared individuals has been very useful for our project. The campus's location makes it an ideal place to track this species. It would be much more difficult for us if we didn't have use of that property, so we are very grateful to the school for allowing us to utilize their property in this way."

NJSOC is thrilled to be part of the project and looks forward to learning more about the research findings as the project enters its next phase.



Public Engagement: Capital Improvements for Funding Application through Garden State Preservation Trust

As part of the NJSOC's budget victory, we are now also able to apply for funds from the Garden State Preservation Trust as a nonprofit doing restoration of state facilities on state owned land. One of the requirements for receiving the funding is get public input on the proposed projects.

In anticipation of applying for capital improvements funding through the state, we are conducting outreach. We want our community's input as we work to prioritize our projects and develop our application.

Please click the button below to provide your thoughts and comments in response to a few survey questions. Thank you for your input! We deeply value your contribution to our planning process.



Welcome, Chloe and Ethan!

By: Michela Sales, NJSOC Executive Assistant

We are excited to welcome Chloe Chen and Ethan Haiduc-Dale as our new Education Interns for the summer!

Chloe is a rising senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, who has an interest in environmental sciences and STEM. She is looking forward to gaining knowledge about native wildlife in NJ, as well as contributing to the environment of the NJSOC campus through an art passion project that will foster a more creative space for the campus. During her internship, Chloe is looking to gain a better understanding of biodiversity on and beyond the NJSOC campus, as well as learning more about potential career opportunities in the field of environmental science.

Ethan is a rising senior at Newton High School, who has a strong passion for the outdoors and conservation. He serves as President of both FFA (Future Farmers of America) and the SAVE (Students Against Violating the Environment) Club at his school. During his internship, Ethan is looking to expand his knowledge about the natural world and conservation, help others discover and appreciate nature, and inspire younger generations to develop a lifelong passion for protecting the environment.

In her free time, Chloe enjoys experimenting with different mediums of art, especially acrylics, skateboarding, and spending time with her weiner dog, Hunter. In Ethan's free time, he enjoys skiing, hiking, golfing, playing basketball, birdwatching, and spending as much time outdoors as possible.

We look forward to having Chloe and Ethan as part of the NJSOC team!



CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION: EMPOWERING NEW JERSEY'S NONFORMAL EDUCATORS

Join us for a field based workshop that will empower NJ's nonformal educators with tools, activities, and confidence to teach climate change

For more information :
Tanya Sulikowski
NJSOC Director of Education
tsulikowski@njsoc.org

Public Programs

August 15 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm FREE
The NJSOC Book Club... Summer Session
NJ School of Conservation | 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, United States

Our FREE book club is back with a new title for Summer 2026!

Join us as we read together *Raising Hare*, a memoir by Chloe Dalton. Participants will read at their own pace, with the opportunity to discuss virtually via the Heylo app. You'll receive weekly discussion points to ponder that will guide our group conversation. We'll meet to discuss the book face-to-face on Saturday, August 15th, at the School of Conservation from 10:30 to noon. This meeting will also include an outdoor activity related to our reading.

High School students and up are welcome to join. Participants will provide their own copy of the book. We will officially begin reading on Sunday, July 5th. Please feel free to register and

jump in any time. Participants will receive additional instructions via email (don't forget to monitor the email address you use to register!).

<https://njsoc.org/event/the-njsoc-book-club-summer-session/>

August 31 @ 4:00 pm - September 1 @ 4:00 pm

**Climate Change Education: Empowering New Jersey's Nonformal Educators
NJ School of Conservation | 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, United States**

Join us for a field based workshop that will empower NJ's nonformal educators with tools, activities, and confidence to teach climate change

In 2020, NJ became the first state in the US to incorporate climate change education into all K-12 content areas.

This professional learning workshop is designed to support New Jersey's nonformal educators in confidently and effectively teaching climate change through engaging, learner-centered experiences. The program focuses on building both content knowledge and instructional capacity, ensuring educators feel prepared to facilitate meaningful climate learning in a variety of nonformal settings.

<https://njsoc.org/event/climate-change-education-empowering-new-jerseys-nonformal-educators/>



Click logo to make a donation. Or click [here](#)!

Our Mission

The mission of the New Jersey School of Conservation is to foster environmental knowledge and action through education programs delivered in a natural setting. We are a community of diverse, responsible stewards of the earth who promote sustainability practices, climate change mitigation and environmental justice.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Friends of NJ SOC | One Wapalanne Road | Branchville, NJ 07826 US

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