



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

JANUARY 2016



Restoring Wreck Pond Ground Breaking Event **By Eric Schradling**

On January 19, federal, state, and local officials came to Wreck Pond for a ground breaking event with local partners. The project is funded by the Service with Sandy funds, NJDEP, the Borough of Spring Lake, and a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Block Grant. The project will construct a 600-foot secondary box culvert between Wreck Pond and the ocean to enhance fish passage, help reduce flooding of the surrounding communities during major storms, and improve water quality. Congressional District 4.



Assemblyman David Rible, American Littoral Society Executive Director Tim Dillingham, NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin, Mayor of Spring Lake Jennifer Naughton, USFWS Field Supervisor Eric Schradling, and U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (from left to right) (Photo credit: Dave Hawkins, ALS).



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Effects of Winter Storm Jonas on New Jersey Sandy Projects **By Katie Conrad**

Winter Storm Jonas affected two Sandy Projects in New Jersey: Wreck Pond and Gandy's Beach. The storm caused no damage to Wreck Pond because a protective sand berm was constructed along the shoreline to keep out coastal flooding, but resulted in a few days delay due to storm preparation and clean up.



At Gandy's Beach, the storm dismantled the four pilot oyster breakwaters installed in October that were part of a larger project to reduce shoreline erosion and enhance coastal habitats along The Nature Conservancy (TNC)-owned Gandy's Beach Preserve. Future installations will use materials that will be resilient to storms of similar strength. Congressional Districts 2 and 4.





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Crystal Springs Restoration Project **By Brian Marsh**

Partners staff met with the staff of Crystal Springs and New Jersey Audubon to discuss possible restoration partnerships. Crystal Springs owns numerous golf courses, hotels, ski resorts, and large tracts of undeveloped space in Sussex County. With a shift in ownership and their joining NJ Audubon's Corporate Stewardship Council, the company has a new focus on land stewardship, ecotourism, and corporate responsibility. Restoration may play a big role in their plans. Crystal Springs properties include many bog turtle sites needing management, ridges important to migratory birds, and riparian corridors with value to bats. Congressional District 5.



Photo: Crystal Springs is one of the largest private landowners in New Jersey with ample opportunities for restoration projects that can benefit the trust species.
(Photo: crystalgolfresort.com)



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Native Warm-Season Grass and Milkweed Seeding **By Brian Marsh**

Partners staff over seeded common milkweed along the perimeter of 55 acres of fields at Hoffman Park in Hunterdon County and a 22 acre field on a private farm in Morris County. Both sites were planted into native grasses over the past two years. Herbicides used in the preparation of the fields preclude seeding milkweed at the time of seeding the native grasses. The milkweed will benefit the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Congressional District 7.



Photo: Native warm-season grass seeding at Hoffman Park where milkweed was overseeded.

Salem County, NJ Bog Turtle Site **By Beth Freiday**

Partners biologist Beth Freiday, met with the owner of a bog turtle site in Salem County, NJ. The landowner was interested in preserving his land and agreed to apply to NRCS's Wetland Reserve Easement program. This project will protect 50 acres of active bog turtle habitat and riparian corridor buffer land in an area of intensive commercial and agricultural development. Partners on the project are the NJ Conservation Foundation and the Natural Lands Trust. Congressional District 2.