to explore conservation solutions for the camp and, after five years of searching for an appropriate conservation owner for the property, Camp Hidden Falls took the first step toward its new life as public parkland earlier this year.

Purchased by The Conservation Fund, the property will soon be transferred to the National Park Service as an addition to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The breathtakingly beautiful property includes more than two miles of pristine streams, eight "hidden" waterfalls, and 15 acres of wetlands teaming with wildlife. The bulk of the Camp is wooded, offering essential habitat for a myriad of raptors and songbirds. The property is an important acquisition that will help make a future connection between the 70,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and 20,000 acres of Delaware State Forest.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, **NJ**

preserving land neighboring Glades

6 Levenknight Property
10 acres
Downe Township

***Key Partners:** Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; William Penn Foundation*

Natural Lands secured a conservation easement on 10 acres of the wooded Levenknight property, which is located adjacent to our 6,765-acre Glades Wildlife Refuge.

saving the stuff of memories

7 Sheppard's Mill Girl Scout Camp
417 acres
Greenwich and Hopewell Townships

***Key Partners:** NJ Department of Environmental Protection – Green Acres State Land Acquisition Program; Open Space Institute – Bayshore Highlands Grant Fund; William Penn Foundation*

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Cohansey River Wildlife Management Area just increased in size with the addition of a 417-acre property formerly known as the Sheppard's Mill Girl Scout Camp. The entire property is now open to the public for hiking, birdwatching, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and hunting. The addition of the Sheppard's Mill property brings the size of the Cohansey River WMA to 1,474 acres.

The former Girl Scout Camp includes a 52-acre lake, several streams, and a densely forested area with a hilly terrain, offering a variety of wildlife habitats including those for Bald Eagles.

"Few preservation projects have had as much support as this one from municipal, county, and state residents and government officials, not to mention the thousands of now-adult Girl Scouts who will be able to bring friends and relatives back to relive their childhood experiences here.," said Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands. "We feel fortunate to have played a role as part of the team that—after more than five years of negotiations and fundraising—preserved this woodland and lake forever." ■

a weekend. a way of life.

Erin and Randy Richard were just looking for a nice place to walk their dogs, Harley and Pepper. One of Erin's coworkers had mentioned a place called ChesLen Preserve, so they headed out to explore on a cool, autumn afternoon. "We were so impressed with the place that we decided then and there to visit more Natural Lands' properties," said Randy.

Fast-forward two years, and the couple has become members of Natural Lands, visited all 18 of our publicly accessible preserves, attended countless events, graduated from our Force of Nature® volunteer training program, and actively volunteer on the preserves.

"For me, volunteering has been a personal growth opportunity," said Randy. "I've always loved nature and wildlife and felt that there was more I needed to do. Erin actually brought up the idea of volunteering, and it was like the light bulb went on... it's a great way to give something back."

Erin shared that she gets back as much as she gives. "That part of Natural Lands' mission about 'connecting people to the outdoors and each other' really speaks to me. I have met many friendly and knowledgeable people, both volunteers and staff, who have made my experience truly rewarding."

Both say that sharing these experiences in nature has been an added benefit.

"I'm very lucky to be married to someone that shares passion for wildlife and the outdoors," echoed Randy. "We see something new every day out there on the preserves, and I'm thankful we get to experience it together."

Thank you both, Erin and Randy, for all you've given to Natural Lands and for being joyful advocates for nature!

For more information on volunteer opportunities and other ways to support Natural Lands, visit natlands.org/support. ■

top: Randy Richard, *bottom:* Erin Richard