



**Stewardship in the Mercer  
County Park Commission**

Jennifer Rogers  
County Naturalist

# Baldpate Mountain

Baldpate Mountain, a 1250 acre preserve, is part of the Sourland Mountain Region and contains the largest contiguous forest in Mercer County.

Has been identified as an Important Bird Area by New Jersey Audubon Society. The preserve is host to breeding Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler and hooded warblers.

**Stewardship Activities happening here:**

- 14 years of deer management
- Invasive plant eradication with partner agencies
  - Reforestation Project

# **Baldpate Mountain Deer Management**

**The County has been running a deer management program at this preserve for 12 consecutive years. The focus of the program is to reduce the size of the local deer herd.**

**Within the preserve are areas of forest regeneration; native understory is beginning to shade out forest invasives.**

# Invasive Plant Management

Partnership with Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space  
(New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team)

Target emerging invasive plants and sensitive  
microhabitats within park boundaries.



Oriental Photinia



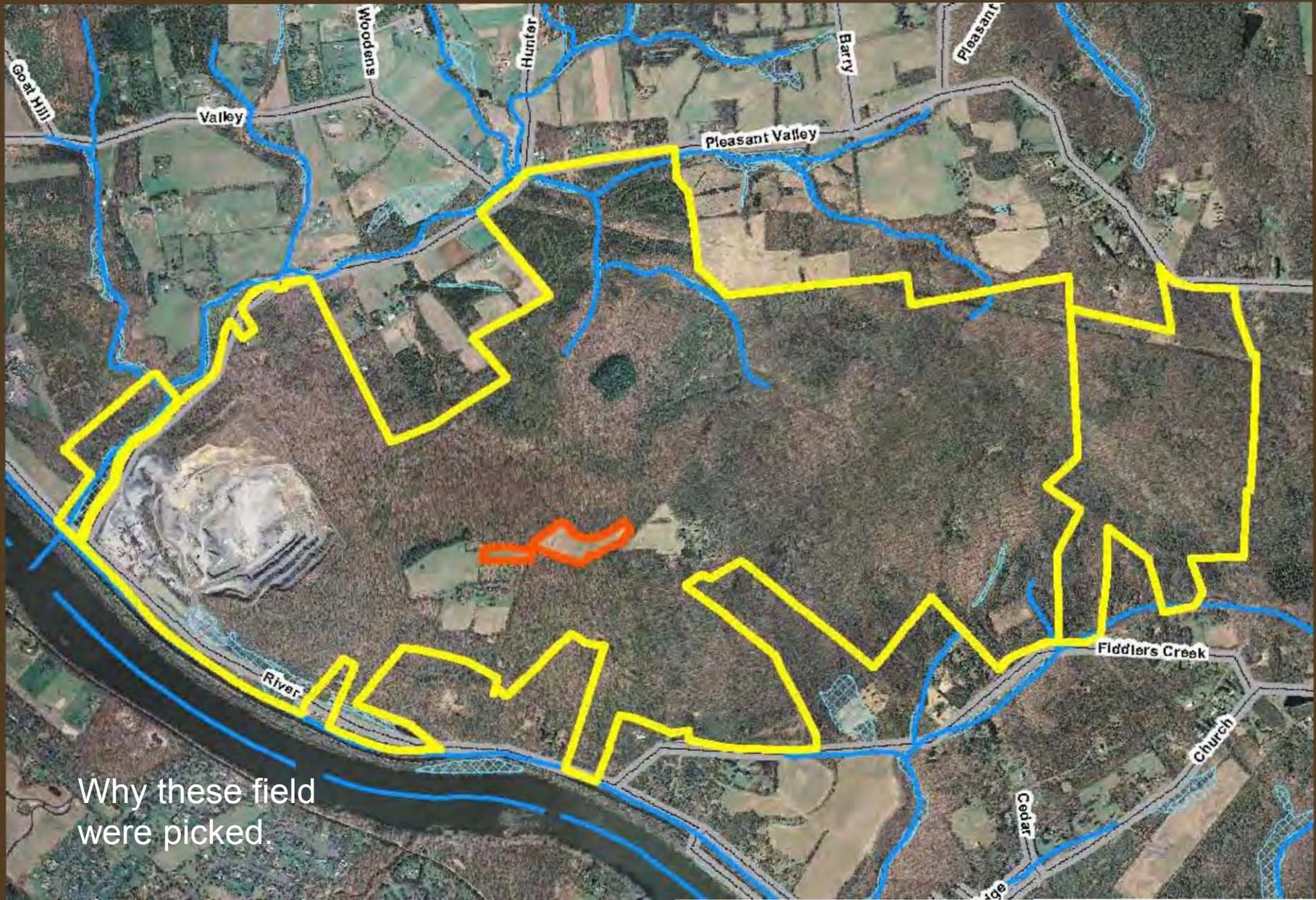
Linden Viburnum

# Baldpate Reforestation

8.3 acres of post-agricultural fields were planted with 1660 native trees and shrubs.



# Baldpate Reforestation Site



Why these field were picked.

# Baldpate Reforestation: The Secrets to Success

1. Partner Organizations



2. Volunteer Crews



3. Creative Resources and  
Internal Support



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR MORE THAN 125 YEARS

Here for you **nj.com** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## On Baldpate, new trees form a mountain-toup

By Carmen Cusido  
STAFF WRITER

Preserve sees one of county's largest reforestation projects

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP — In what was billed as one of the largest reforestation projects in Mercer County, park officials have planted new trees over 8.3 acres of meadow replanted with top of the Baldpate Preserve.

County officials said 1,666 trees have been planted in a project that will take years. It will be an already

provide vital cover for songbirds and other woodland critters that need densely wooded

warbler and the worm-eating warbler nestle in the middle of the forest and typically stay

land and joins various other parcels that have been earmarked for preservation. Most

### Trees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A01

the acreage of "contiguous" forest in the Baldpate area, said Jenn Rogers, a naturalist with the Mercer County Park Commission.

Rogers said contributions from various sources helped make the project a success.

The county did not have to pay for the trees or for an 8-foot-high fence installed around the trees to prevent deer from eating them, Rogers said.

A \$17,500 grant from Conservation Resources Inc. paid for the fence, and the trees — a mixture of red oak, shrubs and canopy trees — were a contribution from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and were valued at \$8,800, Rogers said.

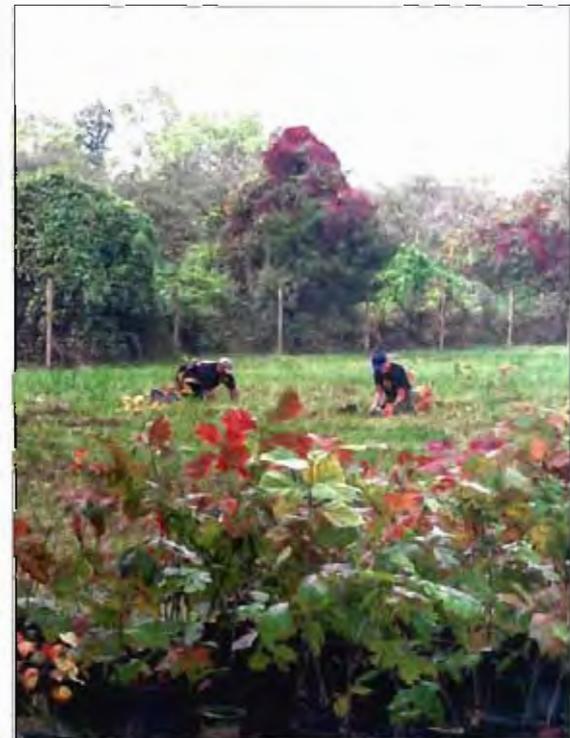
The newly-planted trees measure from 1 to 3 feet tall, and some of them, particularly the canopy trees, will grow 80 to 100 feet tall.

Originally scheduled for mid-September, the plantings were delayed for a month because of the hot and dry weather, officials said.

views of countryside stretching south toward Trenton.

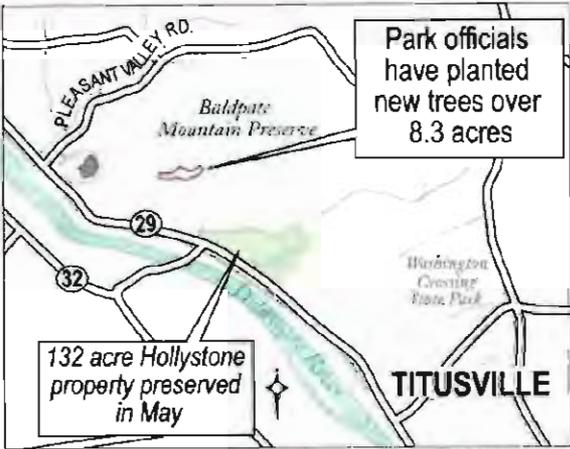
"Visitors to Baldpate Mountain are always impressed by its unique beauty," said Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes. "I thank our partners at Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and all the volunteers for working hand in hand with our Park Commission to see this project through, and I'm grateful to Conservation Resources Inc. for funding this important project." Volunteers from corporations such as Educational Testing Services, Rosetta, and Merck Inc. and groups such as Girl Scouts, Master Gardeners of Mercer County and Hopewell Valley High School students assisted with the plantings, county officials said in a release. The groups and numerous individual volunteers, including participants in the Baldpate hunting program, logged a total of 295 hours on the project.

Baldpate Mountain, together with adjacent woodlands, comprises by far the largest forest in Mercer County and is part of the 90-square-mile Sourland Mountain Region. The park's



MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER

Volunteers plant new trees on Baldpate Mountain at the county preserve in Hopewell Township. Potted seedlings await planting in the foreground.



TON SOMMERVELD/LEADER FOR THE TIMES

# Trenton To Trails 2011



# The Future of Stewardship...

- **Mercer Meadows – grassland restoration**
- **Roebeling Park – restoration of an island in tidal marsh**
- **Baldpate Mountain – native plant garden and Trenton To Trails Program**

