Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Annual Members’ Meeting and Program

Please Join Us for our
Annual Members’ Meeting,
Tuesday March 24, 2015
at 6:30 PM
and enjoy our program
”Fish Tales”

Please note that the meeting and program begins at 6:30 PM

The meeting will be held at the Warren Fox Nature Center in
Estell Manor Park, Mays Landing

Fish Tales

Families and individuals interested in fishing and the environment are invited to join
Fred Akers, “Watershed Fred” to learn about the life histories of migratory fish in Lake
Lenape and the Great Egg Harbor River. This presentation will examine life cycles of
species such as river shad, white perch, river herring, and the American eel, and their
relationship to larger species of fish such as striped bass, and fish-eating birds, including
osprey, great blue heron, and the bald eagle.

Call Lynn if you have any questions at 856-649-2792 or email
lynnkmaun@comcast.net
Please plan to attend
The Blueback River Herring Lawsuit

Washington, D.C. – The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Earth Justice, and a coalition of fishing and watershed protection groups including the Great Egg Harbor River Council, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Anglers Conservation Network, and the Delaware River Shad Fishermen’s Association filed a complaint on February 10, 2015 in federal court seeking to reverse a decision by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) not to list the blueback herring as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Blueback herring once were highly abundant in many coastal waters, rivers and streams of the eastern United States, from Nova Scotia all the way to Florida. In larger rivers, spawning runs could reach well into the millions of individual fish. The movement of enormous schools of silvery, foot-long herring as they left the Atlantic to swim up rivers and streams was an astonishing annual event. A vital part of healthy watersheds and coastal ecosystems, these schools fed predators hungry after a long winter, including striped bass, ospreys, bald eagles, herons, harbor seals, river otters, and people.

But due primarily to the impacts of dams and habitat destruction, overfishing, and water pollution, blueback herring are now reduced to tiny remnant runs. The commercial fishery has collapsed and a critical food source has gone missing from the ecosystem. The Mid-Atlantic blueback river herring population is particularly imperiled and at risk of extinction.

“The historical abundance of river herring in the Great Egg Harbor River system is long gone. The state of New Jersey has outlawed even the possession of one river herring, but they are still allowed to be killed in large numbers as bycatch in federal waters. It is time for the National Marine Fisheries Service to list the blueback herring as a threatened species and start to work to bring them back”, said Fred Akers, Administrator of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council.

The groups are asking that U.S District Court in DC find the National Marine Fisheries Service in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and that the court order the federal agency to prepare a new listing determination within six
Spring is right around the corner! With the warmer weather and flowers blooming soon, what better way to kick-start the season than the annual spring cleanup in the Atlantic County Parks. This program has proved to be successful and a great asset in keeping the Parks green and clean as we enter into the 5th year of the cleanup. To date, roughly 8 miles of roads/trails have been cleaned and approximately 25 cubic yards of trash and 12 cubic yards of recycled material were gathered from various County Park locations. Imagine - that is about 37 washing machines!

The event is cosponsored by the Great Egg Harbor River Council and Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association in partnership with Atlantic County Parks, Friends of the Parks, Atlantic County Utilities Authority and Atlantic County Parks and Environmental Advisory Board.

The Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor provides an essential habitat for trees and wildlife. The Nature Center is also a key feature to the Park as it is a host site for many public meetings and recreation activities. This cleanup not only spruces up the Park’s image for spring and summer visitors, but also will help keep the ecosystem clean for all walks of life.

Volunteers are needed to help out with this effort. Please meet in the Nature Center parking lot at 8:15 AM. The cleanup will be broken into 3 teams at roughly ¼ mile intervals. Please dress for the weather. Bring gloves and water. Lunch will be provided after the cleanup.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Fred Akers as soon as possible at fred.akers13@gmail.com or at 609-335-3744, or Adam Wicraft at wicraft_adam@aclink.org or at 609-625-7000 ext. 5424.
SPRING—IT’S ALMOST HERE
By Lynn Maun

Winter is almost over and I am looking forward to getting my hands dirty as I begin to clean up last year’s leaves and dead plant stalks from my gardens. During this between time, when the last of the snow melts and disappears and the first green shoot sprouts up out of the ground or appears on a branch, can be dreary days for me as a backyard gardener. Everywhere I look I see leaves and plant stalks that have been flattened by the recent snows. Everything is either brown or gray. The only bright color in my backyard comes from the green leaves on my holly trees. That was until Monday March 9th, when the outside temperature rose into the 50s and my honeybees left their hive in droves. As they returned, I noticed very small amounts of pollen on the rear legs of a few bees. On Tuesday, March 10th, the rain slowed the bees down and kept them confined to their hive. But on Wednesday, March 11th, when the temperature on my thermometer registered 63 degrees, the bees were flying and arriving back at the hive with the pollen sacs on their rear legs bulging with pollen. Springtime colors of pale yellow and goldenrod yellow adorned their legs. Ah, finally a taste of spring. So even though the actual first day of spring is still over a week away, for me it arrived on Monday when my bees returned to their hive wearing nature’s bounty on their rear legs.
Your membership supports our mission and ensures our survival as a non-profit advocate, as we work to protect and preserve the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed throughout the year. Your support is needed now more than ever. Without you, we could not exist. Thank you for your support!

Name/Organization:____________________________________________________________________
Street Address:_______________________________________________________________________
City, State and Zip:____________________________________________________________________
Phone Number:_______________________________________________________________________
Email Address:_______________________________________________________________________

________ Yes, I would like to receive notices by Email.

Annual Membership: Individual: $10; Family: $15; Supporting: $35; Patron: $50; Corporate: $100

Please mail this form along with your check to: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Membership P.O. Box 109, Newtonville, NJ 08346
Calendar of GEHWA and GEHRC Meetings

2015

Please make a note of the new meeting time.
All meetings held at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor
will begin at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 - GEHWA Member Meeting—Fred Akers presents “The Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River Designation”

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting—Annual Reorganization Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 - GEHWA ANNUAL Member Meeting & Program

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 - GEHWA Member Meeting—Annual Frog Walk (Details will be provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 - GEHWA Member & Friends Picnic and Campfire (Location and details will be provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, August 19, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, 2015
GEHWA 2 day Canoe/Kayak event on the Great Egg Harbor River and overnight camping at Camp Acagisca (Details will be provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2015 - GEHWA Member Meeting—Program to be announced.

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council & Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Trustee Annual Meeting

Please plan on attending these events.
The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association’s Environmental Programs are **FREE**

We offer our environmentally focused programs **free** of charge to augment existing school curriculum. A school’s environmental programs are often threatened when faced with annual budget cuts. If you are a parent, and/or an educator, and feel our programs would enhance the environmental education that your child/student is receiving, please contact the appropriate individual in your school and request that they take advantage of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association’s **free** programs. If you would like additional information please contact Lynn Maun, Education Outreach Coordinator at 856-649-2792 or lynnkmaun@comcast.net

**REMEMBER** our environmentally focused programs are **FREE!**

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**Contact Information**

**Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association**
- Julie Akers, President (856) 697-6114
- Fred Akers, Administrator (856) 697-6114
- P.O. Box 109, Newtonville, NJ 08346
- Email: fred_akers@gehwa.org
- Web Site: [www.gehwa.org](http://www.gehwa.org)
- Lynn Maun, Coordinator (856) 649-2792
- Email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net

**National Park Service**
- Paul Kenney (215) 597-5823; Paul_Kenney@nps.gov

**NJ DEP Watershed Management Office**
- (609) 777-0580

**Atlantic County Department of Planning**
- (609) 645-5898

**US Army Corps of Engineers**
- (215) 656-6725

**NJ DEP Regulatory Office for Atlantic County**
- (609) 292-8292

**NJ DEP Enforcement Officer**
- (732) 255-0787

**Pinelands Commission**
- (609) 894-7300

**NJ DEP Hotline**
- 1-877 WARN DEP

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To report an environmental incident impacting NJ, call the Toll-Free 24—Hour Hotline 1-877WARNDEP, 1-877-927-6337

If you should see debris or shoaling while traversing on New Jersey waters please call: 1-877- WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337)
Male Hairy Woodpecker

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
PO Box 109
Newtonville, NJ 08345-0109