

## **GEHR Watershed Minute #22**

### **Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area: (207 words)**

The waters of the Great Egg Harbor River upstream from the Garden State Parkway are largely protected by 14,700 acres of state owned land called the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area. Also called the Lester G. MacNamara Wildlife Management Area in honor of the past Director of Fish and Game, this vast area of extensive tidal salt marsh, mixed upland forest, and freshwater rivers and impoundments straddles Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

Portions of the wildlife management area are located in Estell Manor, Corbin City, Upper Township, and Egg Harbor Township. The Tuckahoe River, Cedar Swamp Creek, the Middle River, Gibson Creek, Hawkins Creek, Griscom Creek, and the Great Egg Harbor River all flow through it. Six brackish water impoundments on the upland edges of the tract provide important habitat, and an 8-mile access road provides good opportunities for exploring these dynamic habitats and watching wildlife. Small parking areas and a boat launch on the Tuckahoe River are also available.

The expansive wetlands attract large numbers of migratory waterfowl and other marsh birds, and furnish essential spawning, foraging, and nesting habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. These wetlands also absorb contaminants, nutrients and suspended sediments, and provide a first line of defense against storm surges and flooding.