

## **GEHR Watershed Minute #27**

### **Cedar Swamp Creek: (218 words)**

Cedar Swamp Creek is a 10 mile long tributary of the Tuckahoe River that flows north from Upper Township past Petersburg. It got its name from the vast stands of cedar trees that were found along its banks by the first settlers in the late 1600's.

Joseph Corson built ships on Cedar Swamp Creek in 1762. Cedar shooks for barrels, shingles, lumber, and cordwood were exported down the creek and around Cape May to Philadelphia. Farming was also a major industry along the Creek.

In about 1816, the property owners along the creek decided that increasing salt water tides that were killing cedar trees and flooding their lands needed to be controlled, so they formed the Cedar Swamp Creek Meadow Company and the creek was dammed at Tuckahoe Marmora Road. This enabled the farming of fields along the creek and also the cutting of salt hay up until about 1926, when maintaining the dam was discontinued.

The 1815 property owners who belonged to the Cedar Swamp Creek Meadow Company included the Corsons, Beesleys, Van Gilders, Youngs, Stites, Godfreys, Shaws, Mickles, Faulkinburghs, and Banners. Today, 9.2 miles of Cedar Swamp Creek is federally designated as a scenic component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, and the creek is primarily used for fishing, boating, and natural habitat for wildlife.