

## **GEHR Watershed Minute #32**

### **English Creek: (227 words)**

In 1992, 3.5 miles of English Creek from its confluence with the Great Egg Harbor River to Zion Road were designated by Congress as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. English Creek is located in Egg Harbor Township, and its full length of 6.3 miles drains 9.6 square miles of land in its subwatershed.

In 1714, John English settled on a large tract of land his family owned in the area, and both the settlement and the creek were given the name English Creek. The creek had strong flows and was dammed to create sawmills for wood products and gristmills for farm products. An 1894 state inventory of mills listed grist and saw mills owned by Baker and Thompson with 9 foot falls and 25 horsepower on English Creek.

Wooden ships were built and launched in the tidal reaches of English Creek at the English Creek Boat Yard, and fish, shellfish, and salt hay were actively harvested. As local river related industries flourished, the area population increased. By the middle and latter part of the 1800's, a school, post office, blacksmith shop, store, several churches, and tavern were firmly established.

In addition to the historical and cultural values of English Creek's past, scenic views, recreational boating, and abundant natural habitat for wildlife - like foraging Bald Eagles and Osprey - are highly valued today.