

## **GEHR Watershed Minute #40**

### **Buena Vista: (234 words)**

Buena Vista Township in western Atlantic County is host to the headwaters of three rivers in two watersheds that are part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In 1992 parts of the Great Egg Harbor River tributaries of Deep Run and the South River in Buena Vista were designated by Congress, and then in 1993 the Manumuskin River, a tributary of the Maurice River, was also designated by Congress.

While the Manumuskin and South Rivers in Buena Vista are very small and sensitive headwaters, Deep Run is a larger system. The earliest settlements in Buena Vista Township can be traced to Deep Run in the Pancoast Mill area, where a sawmill was developed by John Campbell around 1773.

Ambrose Pancoast eventually took over the sawmill, which had a 5 foot waterfall and a gross power rating of 22 horse power as of 1891. Production and activity in the Pancoast Lake Area was significant enough that the Reading Railroad created a train stop near the mill on Pancoast Mill Road by 1860.

Today, the industrial activity of the sawmill is long gone, and Buena Vista, which means “good vision”, is now host to considerable wildlife and rare species in its undeveloped watershed areas. With about 1,400 acres of state preserved land, and about 1,000 acres of municipal open space, Buena Vista has about 10 percent of its land area dedicated to permanent preservation.