



The Great Egg Harbor River Council Sponsors \$195,000 since 2001 to Implement the Comprehensive Management Plan

Started in 2001, the River Council has issued 64 grants totaling \$195,000 to implement the management plan for the river under the federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Primarily supported by Congressional Appropriations and Cooperative Agreements with the National Park Service, the River Council has granted funding over the past 17 years in the following seven areas:

Land Preservation \$4,532: Two grants were given to support survey costs for possible land acquisition. \$2,032 was given to Weymouth Township in 2004 to survey 1,800 acres for threatened and endangered species habitat, and \$2,500 was given in 2007 to the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge in Buena Vista Township to assist with appraisals for the acquisition of 37 additional acres.

Restoration and Enhancement \$8,438: Two vegetation stabilization projects for \$5,238 were funded at the bluffs in Kennedy Park in 2003 and 2006 and included student volunteers from the Dawes Avenue School. Another project was for \$500 strategic plantings in both Weymouth and Estell Manor. Started In 2008, \$2,000 was provided for the installation of 15 Osprey nesting platforms in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary, with \$700 added for maintenance in 2017. In 2009 the water trail at New Brooklyn Lake was restored for \$543 by Eagle Scout Ryan Coe.

Watershed Education and Outreach \$41,189: \$1,000 started the Egg Harbor Township School's Adopt-A-Stream program, \$975 to Weymouth Twp. for GIS hardware and \$200 for the South River trail brochure. In 2008-2009 \$10,000 was invested in the production and airing of 50 chapters for the Watershed Minute Radio Program, \$1,065 was provided to sponsor the Friends of the Atlantic County Parks annual Folk Arts Festival, and \$200 for an ANJEC Road Show in Hamilton. Since 2007, \$26,242 has been invested in 40+ student river cruises bringing 1,200+ youth to experience the river. In 2017, \$850 for a new Groundwater model, and \$857 for the 25th Anniversary Cruise, was spent.

River Stewardship \$14,157: Five separate river cleanup projects were funded during the last 17 years in Hamilton Township, Corbin City, and Upper Township including support for two local Boy Scout Troops in Upper Township and Corbin City who waged major cleanup campaigns on the Tuckahoe River. In 2009, 1,000 tires were cleaned up in Hamilton Twp. at a cost of \$4,114.

Watershed Signage \$10,822: \$6112 for 60 specially designed signs with stream names were installed at 30 locations where watershed roads cross federally designated stream segments. In 2017 \$1,850 was spent to maintain the road signs, and \$2,860 for 3 interpretive signs for Camden County.

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Science and Research \$96,595: \$1,000 to Richard Stockton College for fish species data, \$3,000 for Stockton Interns, \$82,095 for the 10 year Winter Raptor and Waterbird Survey, and \$10,000 in 2018 for the Winslow Green Infrastructure Project.

Recreation Management \$19,875: \$15,125 was given to the Hamilton Township Police Department in 2001-2002 to implement the staffing of the River Patrol, which was started by the National Parks Service in 2000 with a donation of a motorboat and trailer. In 2015, \$3,500 was given to the Scullville Fire Department for Fire Boat equipment, and \$1,250 was given to Somers Point for a kayak rack.

10th Year of the Great Egg Harbor River Council Osprey Colony Project

By Lynn Maun

The Great Egg Harbor River Council (GEHRC) "Osprey Colony Project" is now in its 10th year. Prior to 2009 there were approximately 21 nesting platforms located west of the Garden State Parkway on the Great Egg, Tuckahoe and Middle rivers. Over the past 10 years, in partnership with a variety of groups, 26 additional platforms have been added. Our partners include: Adam Day (Eagle Scout Project-5), students from Fernwood and Alder Avenue School-4 and Atlantic City Electric-5. This year, 2018, we monitored 47 nesting locations.

In 1974 there were approximately 50 nesting pair of osprey in NJ, down from a historic count of 500. The efforts of many dedicated individuals and organizations have led to the successful recovery of this special bird. It was one of the first species to be place on NJ's "Endangered Species List" back in 1973. In 2017, 43 years later, the nesting population of osprey has reached 668 active nests that produced 892 young.



Back in 2009, when the GEHRC first began participating in the statewide program, the state recorded 345 nesting pairs producing 547 young. During the 10 years that the GEHRC has been involved in the program we have **counted 442 chicks and banded 261**. The guidelines established by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife give us a 4 week window in which to count and band chicks; the last 2 weeks of June and the 1st 2 weeks of July. ...continued on page 3

...continued from page 2 We generally try to visit the nests the last week of June. Often having to contend with extreme heat and while always fighting off greenhead flies. I have sustained many painful bites over the years during the female greenhead's quest for a blood meal. Fred Akers has the job of banding the young birds while I collect data and take a great many pictures (over the years, I have taken thousands). I look forward to taking part in this annual event, especially after a busy spring educating students.

10 Year - River Council Osprey Colony Project Data Summary					
Year	Total Plat- forms	Active Nests	Chicks Hatched	Chicks Banded	Chicks/Nest
2009	36	19	28	10	1.47
2010	37	16	38	26	2.38
2011	39	20	42	25	2.1
2012	39	22	33	26	1.5
2013	40	21	51	37	2.4
2014	40	25	57	48	2.28
2015	40	21	34	14	1.62
2016	40	21	47	29	2.23
2017	42	24	50	28	2.08
2018	47	29	62	18	2.14
Total			442	261	

In addition to counting and banding the chicks, we also build new nesting platforms, repair and replace old platforms and clear platforms of excessive nesting material that make it unstable and prone to rot (Fred constructs the new and replacement platforms). The cost of a new platform is approximately \$150.00. Annually, the nests are assessed for damage and then either repaired or replaced. All of the work done for the osprey, whether counting, banding, building or repairing is done through volunteer efforts for the state of NJ.

After 10 years, we have many stories to tell of our time out on the marsh interacting with these wonderful birds. We have rescued chicks that have either fallen or gotten blown out of the nest. Been saddened by the discovery of the remains of dead chicks. By boat, as we stealthily (not always successfully) try to approach the nests built on the concrete bases that hold the powerlines crossing the bay so that we can count the chicks before they play dead (lay down in the nest). We have had fish dropped on our heads from the adults birds flying overhead. We have had teenaged birds (5 weeks or older) stand up in the nest, spread their wings and generally try to defend their nest against the human invaders. In the course of a banding season, we will find chicks of all ages; newborn chicks to chicks close to fledging, as we survey our area. Sadly, we also find an assortment of human generated trash in and around the nests.

These birds that once faced extinction in the State of NJ are an example of what can occur when many different groups and individuals work together. What a success story! ...continued on page 4



Ospreys, Plastics, and Marine Debris

Throughout the world, marine debris (specifically plastics) have become a serious problem in our oceans and coastal areas. In the estuaries of coastal New Jersey, marine debris and plastics are becoming more and more prevalent. Plastic does not degrade in the environment. It only breaks down into smaller pieces. It accumulates along the wrack line (on the higher portions of the marsh) where storm surges, high winds, and spring tides carry it to higher ground. This debris then makes its way into the nests of ospreys.



A female osprey carries a plastic bag to her nest. Photo by Howie Williams.

Currently there are approximately 600 nesting pairs of ospreys throughout New Jersey. Around 80% of population nest along the Atlantic Coast. While conducting surveys during the summer of 2015, CWF staff collected debris from 128 active nests from Point Pleasant south along the coast to Atlantic City. We found all sorts of trash, most of it plastic (single use bags, Mylar and latex balloons, ribbon, monofilament, water bottles) and a few other interesting items like a boomerang, shovel, football, and over five American flags. Ospreys and their young can get entangled very easily and physically tied down to their nests by ribbon, rope and monofilament.

WHY DO OSPREYS USE TRASH AS NESTING MATERIAL?



We don't really know why but our best guess is that it is plentiful in the environment. One fact is that most ospreys collect nesting material from within view of their nest. Since debris and natural nesting material (sticks, eelgrass, and grasses) tend to end up in the same higher portions of the marsh, they then take and use it all. Also, some birds see further into the UV light spectrum than people, maybe making shiny plastics (plastic sheeting, bags, balloons, ribbon, and other nick-nacks) appear different and be more attractive to them. We don't yet know if trash plays any sort of role in their reproductive cycle.

MARINE DEBRIS IS A PROBLEM WE CAN SOLVE TOGETHER!

Put litter in its place! Although marine debris is found worldwide, we can all help with the smallest actions to reduce the amount of debris found along our coastline. Reduce, reuse, recycle, and participate in local watershed, beach or stream cleanups. If we each do a little, together we can make a big difference.

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New Jersey's endangered and threatened wildlife and the habitats they depend on for survival. We accomplish this through research, habitat enhancement, conservation projects, education, and outreach programs that advance the protection of New Jersey's rarest residents.

Learn more: www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org



CONSERVE WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

Osprey – Facts of Interest

- The osprey has a wingspan of 4.5 – 6 feet. It glides with its long, narrow wings pulled towards the body and, when viewed from the ground, resembles the shape of the letter "M".
- The osprey's head is white with a broad, black eye stripe that extends to the back of the neck. The underside is white with flight and tail feathers that are dark brown with faint white bands.
- Ospreys feed on fish and inhabit coastal rivers, marshes and bays, as well as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. They are known for their feet-first plunge into the water to catch their prey with their strong toes (or talons) that have spines on them to pierce the fish's skin.

Ospreys nest on live or dead trees, manmade nesting platforms, light poles, channel markers and other elevated structures that offer an unobstructed view of the landscape near and around a water body.

Source: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/somapril.htm>





Please Plan on Attending GEHWA's Fall Adventure 2018

Where: Babcock
Creek

What: Canoe/Kayak
Event

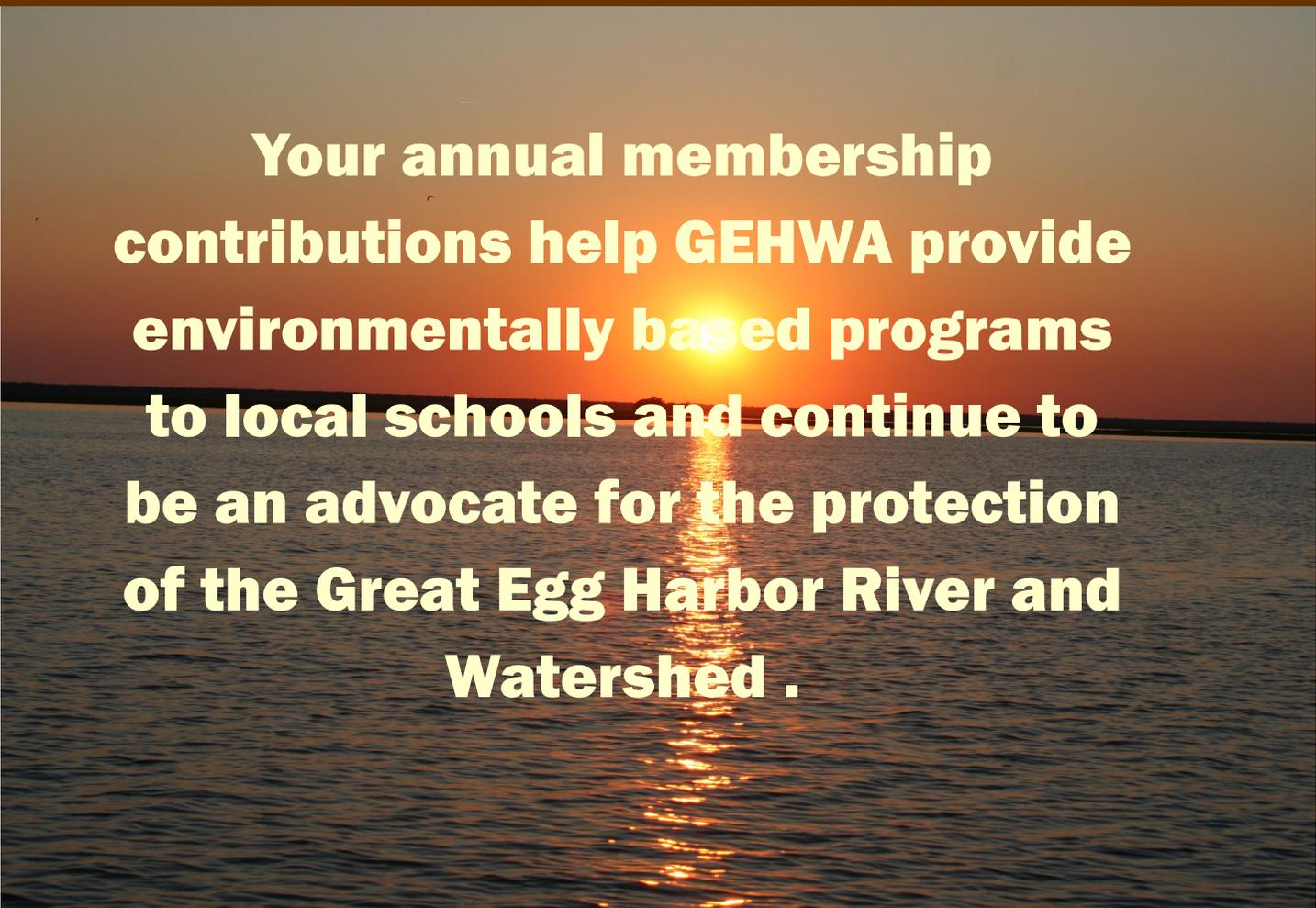
When: Saturday,
September 29, 2018
@12:00 PM

Once again GEHWA is planning an exciting canoe/kayak event. This year we will be launching our boats from the trestle bridge embankment in Mays Landing at noon. We

plan on exploring the creek. We will begin and end our paddle at the trestle bridge. Total round trip paddle is 3 hours. Directions from Mays Landing. Turn on Central Avenue off of Route 40 and follow Central Avenue till you come to the dirt road. Turn right and head towards the trestle bridge. Please bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks.

Please let us know if you plan on attending this EXCITING event (by email, text or phone call). If you have any questions please call or text Lynn Maun @859-649-2792, or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.





Your annual membership contributions help GEHWA provide environmentally based programs to local schools and continue to be an advocate for the protection of the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed .

GEHWA Membership Information

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

2018

*All meetings held at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor
will begin at 6:30 PM.*

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2018- GEHWA Member Meeting—Program to be announced

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting—Annual Reorganization Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2018- GEHWA ANNUAL Member Meeting & Program

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2018- GEHWA Member Meeting—Annual Frog Walk
(Details will be provided closer to the event)



Wednesday, June 20, 2018- Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 - GEHWA Member & Friends Picnic and Campfire (Location and details will be provided closer to the event)



Wednesday, August 15, 2018 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Saturday, September 29, 2018 GEHWA— Canoe/ Kayak event on the Great Egg Harbor River (See Page 5)



Wednesday, October 17, 2018 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 - GEHWA Member Meeting— Program to be announced.

Thursday, December 13, 2018—Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Annual Trustee Meeting (6:00 PM Harley Dawn Diner, Hammonton)

Wednesday, December 19, 2017 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council 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



St. Vincent DePaul student puppet show

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



Student holding a Dragonfly Nymph

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



Students from Alder Avenue School searching for macroinvertebrates

REMEMBER our environmentally focused programs are FREE!

Contact Information

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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

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)



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

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