



River Currents

August 2007

www.gehwa.org

Issue 43

What's Happening in and around the River and the Watershed

ATLANTIC COUNTY: Brownie Troop 3755 from the Lenape Pines Community spent Saturday morning, on August, 25th, at Lake Lenape Park in Mays Landing. Once the haze burned off, it was a beautiful sunny day. The breeze blowing off the lake brought some relief to what was a very hot day.

GEHWA helped the girls work on their "Water Everywhere" badge. They learned that water is an ingredient in many foods, how to determine how much water a leaky faucet wastes using a water calculator, and ways to conserve water around the house. By using a "Water Snooper", the girls



Using the "Water Snoopers"

tried to peer into the lake. Leaky "Water Snoopers" made viewing difficult. But patient, determined girls were able to find fish before they darted for cover under the lily pads. At first, there was some tentativeness about experiencing new things. Soon fears were overcome, and it was with excitement that they got to hold their first tadpole.

ESTELL MANOR: The Friends of the Park, held their second annual Pinelands Folk Art Festival on August 4th. Entertainment was provided throughout the day. Crafters, food stands and information booths could be found in the shade, under the trees.

GEHWA once again had an exhibit at this event. During the morning hours, even though the day was extremely hot and humid, a steady stream of interested individuals stopped by our display. But by noon, as the temperature rose, the number of folks stopping by became a trickle and as the afternoon progressed, the stream dried up. Even though folks were affected by the rising temperature and humidity, they still shared concerns regarding water related issues, and sought information about protecting vital water resources.



GEHWA at the Festival

Don't forget!

The next members' meeting is at 7:00 pm on September 25, 2007 at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor. The program will be on "Flooding Issues within the Watershed" On November 27th Clay Sutton will present a program highlighting the 2006-2007 Bird Survey.

GREAT EGG HARBOR WILD AND SCENIC RIVER: All **36** signs have finally

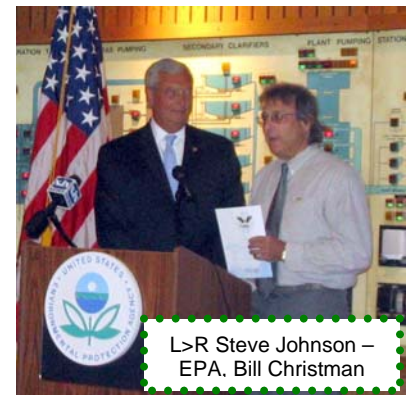
Municipality	Road Crossings	Stream Name
Folsom	8 th Street	Great Egg Harbor River
Buena Vista	Main Ave.	South River
Buena Vista	Pancoast Mill Rd.	Deep Run
Weymouth	County Rte. 669 (11 th)	South River
Weymouth/Hamilton	County Rte. 668 (F.W.)	South River
Hamilton/EHT	County Rte. 559	Miry Run
EHT/Somers Point	County Rte. 559	Patcong Creek
Winslow	County Rte. 536	Great Egg Harbor River
Winslow/Monroe	County Rte. 723	Great Egg Harbor River
Winslow/Monroe	Piney Hollow Road	Great Egg Harbor River
Upper/Estelle	NJ Route 49	Tuckahoe River
Upper	NJ Route 50	Cedar Swamp Creek
Upper/Corbin City	NJ Route 50	Tuckahoe River
Estell Manor	NJ Route 50	Stephen Creek
Estell/Weymouth	NJ Route 50	South River
Hamilton	NJ Route 50	Great Egg Harbor River
Folsom	NJ Route 54	Great Egg Harbor River
Hammonton	NJ Route 54	Penny Pot Branch

been placed. It took six years and a bit of leg work, but the job is completed. The signs are now located at all 18 roads that cross over the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries that are within the Wild & Scenic Federal Boundary. The table to the left lists all of the locations.



Now that the job is done, consideration is being given to the placement of additional signs at road crossings that are within the watershed.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP: Bill Christman, Hamilton Township’s Great Egg Harbor River Councilor, Chair of the Environmental Commission and member of the Planning Board, received an award on July 30, 2007 for his outstanding volunteer service. Stephen L. Johnson, U.S. EPA Administrator, presented Bill with The President’s Volunteer Service Award during a ceremony at the ACUA wastewater treatment facility and wind farm in Atlantic City.



RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE: Once again Julie Akers had the opportunity to teach a select group of



Julie and her Students

students at the Richard Stockton College, “Governor’s School on the Environment”. Julie exposed the students to a variety of environmental activities. These activities enriched the students learning experience by educating them about environmental issues, while



Fred instructing Students at Babcock Creek

also bring them into contact with professionals working in assorted environmental fields. Field trips to the Pinelands, Pinelands Commission Office, Cape May, Nacote Creek, ACUA, camping at Belleplains State Park, kayaking on the Maurice River, macroinvertebrate sampling at Babcock Creek, and hiking at Birch Grove Park exposed the students to environmental organizations, activities, and field work. GEHWA had the opportunity of educating and assisting with several of these activities.

SOMERS POINT: On June 1st and 6th the 4th and 6th grade classes respectively from Dawes Avenue School enjoyed the first “Bluff Day”. Instead of planting bushes, hauling mulch and picking up trash, the students had the opportunity to travel to different environmental stations set up in Kennedy Park. The 4th grade students experienced seining in the bay, learned about the food chain and built a food web, sang conservation songs, and learned about trees, soil horizons, and recycling.



6th Grade Class

bingo, learned about beak adaptations by creating bird beaks. They also learned about beavers, and did some clean up work. Since the 6th graders were graduating from Dawes and would be attending the middle school in September, they received a special treat, an afternoon cruise on the “Duke of Fluke”.



4th Grade Class at Seining Station

The 6th grade students also experienced seining in the bay, learned about birds and bird watching while playing bird



6th Grade Class Boarding Duke of Fluke



Looking for a Gift?



Don't forget that GEHWA has apparel items for sale. If you are looking for a special gift for someone, GEHWA may have just what you want.

Hats for \$10.00



Tee Shirts: \$10.00-\$13.00
Youth Large to Adult XXL
Green, Blue, and Tan



Sweatshirts: Adult Large to XXL
\$20.00 - \$25.00



The logo is on the front and back of both the Tee Shirts and Sweatshirts



These items can be seen in the February Newsletter or at our Website: www.gehwa.org (Click the Newsletter tab and select February 2007). If you would like to make a purchase, contact Lynn Maun at 856-453-0416, or email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

Is your group or organization (scout, school, civic, church, municipal, etc) interested in an environmental program?

GEHWA can help you. Here are some of the programs we offer:

- Where does Your Water Come From?
- Stormwater Runoff
- Conserving and Protecting Our Water Resources
- What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?
- What is a Watershed?

Contact Lynn Maun to schedule a program: 856-453-0416 or email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net



Are We Really Protecting Our Open Spaces?

By: Fred Akers



GEHWA and the Great Egg Harbor River Council support the creation of a long-term stable source of funding for capital projects and operation, maintenance and stewardship of New Jersey's state and local parks and natural heritage lands conservation. Our urban and rural residents depend on well-maintained parks and natural areas for a high quality of life, livable communities and sustainable economies. We all depend upon the clean air and clean water that natural lands can provide.

Without adequate annual public funding, we cannot add to our natural lands inventory, and we cannot adequately protect and maintain those natural lands that we have already acquired. Unfortunately, the basic acts of buying land, purchasing easements, transferring development rights, or preventing development through deed restrictions does not guarantee the long term protection and appropriate use of those lands. Their long term protection requires Comprehensive Management Plan implementation, pro-active stewardship, law enforcement, and money to cover management and stewardship costs.

One of the classic examples of how protected lands and resources can be silently degraded is the story of the Berlin Well. In this case a new municipal well was designed and created to pump water from the ground for public use. However, it was located too close to wetlands with a stream and a federally-protected Swamp Pink population. The well inadvertently sucked the stream and the wetlands dry. This story is also a classic example of stewardship and management. The local residents noticed and reported the problem. Eventually the state closed the well to protect the natural resources on nearby lands.

There are many other direct and indirect threats to the degradation of our preserved open spaces. They include water and air pollution, hydrologic flow regime changes from new development that increase runoff and reduced groundwater recharge, land and water damages and wildlife harassment from All Terrain Vehicles, basic soil compaction, the introduction of invasive species and feral domestic pets.

As development pressure continues to increase in this already crowded state, so does the pressure to preserve lands without adequate planning and the resources necessary to provide long term protection. One of the latest trends in so called Smart Growth planning is to promote the "clustering" of development in one area of a development project and deed restrict preserved land in another area of the project. This gives the developer permission to build as many units as possible in a cluster of pavement and pollution on his land, but when the development is completed the stewardship responsibility for the deed restricted lands are passed on to other parties who have little or no incentive and resources to adequately perform the stewardship job.

Fortunately, there are a number of really good land stewards in our watershed. Atlantic County, NJ Natural Lands Trust, NJDEP, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Unexpected Wildlife Refuge are all hard at work trying their best to manage and protect those increasing acres under their respective jurisdictions.

So if we want more protected and well managed open spaces for future beneficiaries and good quality of life today, we need to do our part to help these good land stewards to get what they need to do the job. These are some of the things that we can do:

1. On November 6, **VOTE YES** for the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007.
2. Vote for increased open space taxes for counties and towns that include expenditures for maintenance and stewardship.
3. Support laws that protect our open spaces, like the new laws proposed for registration, tags, and insurance for all ATVs.
4. Tread lightly on our preserved lands, but be sure to get out and actively watch over them.
5. Volunteer time and/or donate resources to land protection agencies and organizations.

What you can do!
From the Ashes – LIFE

Following the devastation resulting from the May 15th fire that swept through approximately 17,000 acres of forest in the pinelands of Ocean County, comes LIFE. Though the fire did not have a direct impact on the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed, most of the Watershed is in the Pinelands National Reserve, and could in fact be faced with a similar event in the future.



What is amazing is the resilience of nature. Just days following the vast, and what most would call, destruction of acres of forest, life could be found. Fire is crucial if the Pine Barrens are to retain pine trees as the dominant species. Over the centuries fire has been an important component in

maintaining the vegetative communities of the Pine Barrens. When fire is suppressed, the dominant pine tree communities give way to the ecological succession of hard wood “oak tree” communities.

The plants, shrubs and trees found in the Pine Barrens have acquired



adaptations that enable them to survive fires. The Pitch pine is an example. The closed serotinous cones open when exposed to fire, and the seeds hidden deep within the bracts are released. The newly exposed ground, free from an accumulation of leaf litter as a result of the fire, becomes a fertile area for the seeds to germinate. Another adaptation is the thick bark on the Pitch pine that protects dormant buds from fire. What appears to be a dead pine tree following a fire, will soon show signs of life when the dormant buds begin to sprout.



If the vegetation and wildlife that makes the Pine Barrens unique is to be preserved, then fires will need to be a part of that process. Comprehensive planning must take place that will protect the unique ecological characteristics of the Pine Barrens while also protecting human life and property.

(Photos provided by Theresa Lettman, Pinelands Preservation Alliance)

<p>Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Julie Akers, President (856) 697-6114 Fred Akers, Administrator (856) 697-6114 P. O. Box 109; Newtonville, NJ 08346 Email: fred_akers@gehwa.org Web Site: www.gehwa.org Lynn Maun, Coordinator (856) 453-0416 Email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net</p> <p>National Park Service Paul Kenney (215) 597-5823 Paul_Kenney@nps.gov</p> <p>NJDEP Watershed Management Office Robert Mancini (609) 777-0580</p>	<p>Atlantic County Department of Planning Bob Lindaw (609) 645-5898</p> <p>US Army Corps of Engineers (215) 656-6725</p> <p>NJDEP Regulatory Office for Atlantic County (609) 292-8262</p> <p>NJDEP Enforcement Officer Kevin Brown (732) 255-0787</p> <p>Pinelands Commission Main Number (609) 894-7300</p> <p>NJDEP Hotline: 1-877 WARN DEP</p>
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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 25, 2007
GEHWA Members Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2007
GEHWA Members Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 19, 2007
Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting



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. As a result of federal budget cuts, 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: _____

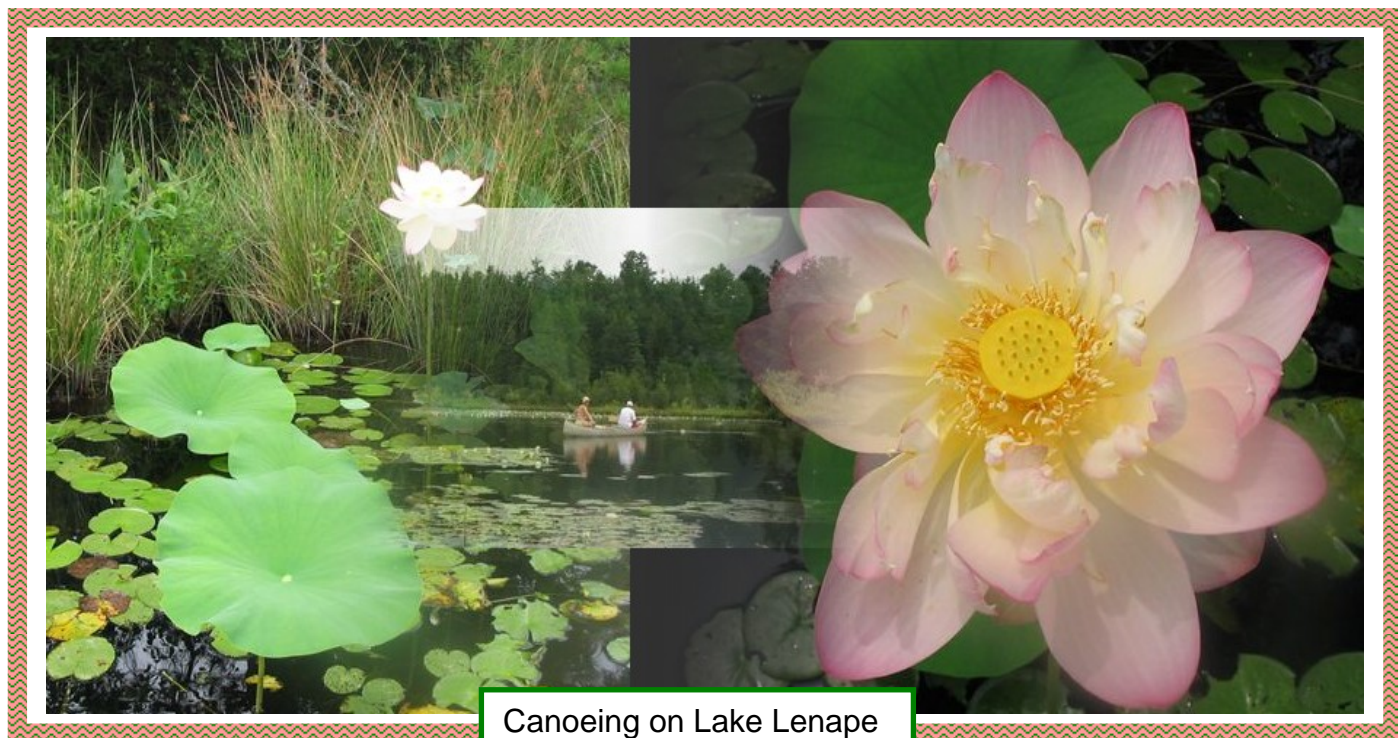
Yes, I would like to receive notices by Email.

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

Give the Gift of a GEHWA Membership!

It does not deplete any of our vital resources. But instead, it will help to preserve and protect our environment both today and for the future.



Canoeing on Lake Lenape

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
P.O. Box 109
Newtonville, NJ 08346