



River Currents

November 2008

www.gehwa.org

Issue 48

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



Watershed Fred in action

Hammonton's 1st Green Day Festival was held on 9/21:

Hammonton had a great day for their inaugural event. The GEHWA booth was in an excellent location, set up next to the moonwalk. As parents brought their children to play in the moonwalk, they could learn "Where Their Water Comes From" from Watershed Fred, while keeping a watchful eye on their children. Paul Galletta, who lives in Hammonton Township and is Atlantic County's representative on the Pinelands Commission, stopped by for a visit.

Pinelands Discovery Festival: What a difference a change in temperature can have on an event. GEHWA attended the Pinelands Discovery Festival again this year on October 5th. We were spared the extreme heat experienced the previous year and instead enjoyed a sunny, pleasantly warm day. The abundant crowd in attendance, enjoying the beautiful fall day, was a reflection of the pleasant

weather. We were busy all day. Folks who stopped by were looking for information, shared concerns and were interested in learning. We enjoyed having the opportunity to educate our visitors about water. Many continued to stop by our exhibit even after the event ended. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance sponsored this event.



The girls are ready to probe the mud.

Brownie Troop 11862: On October 30th GEHWA met with Brownie Troop 11862 at the parking lot in Estell Manor Park near the floating dock. The brownies gathered outdoors on this beautiful fall day to work on their "Water Everywhere Try-it Badge". Many of the girls wore a hue of pink;

it was pink day at school. While this may not have been the best color



What have they found?

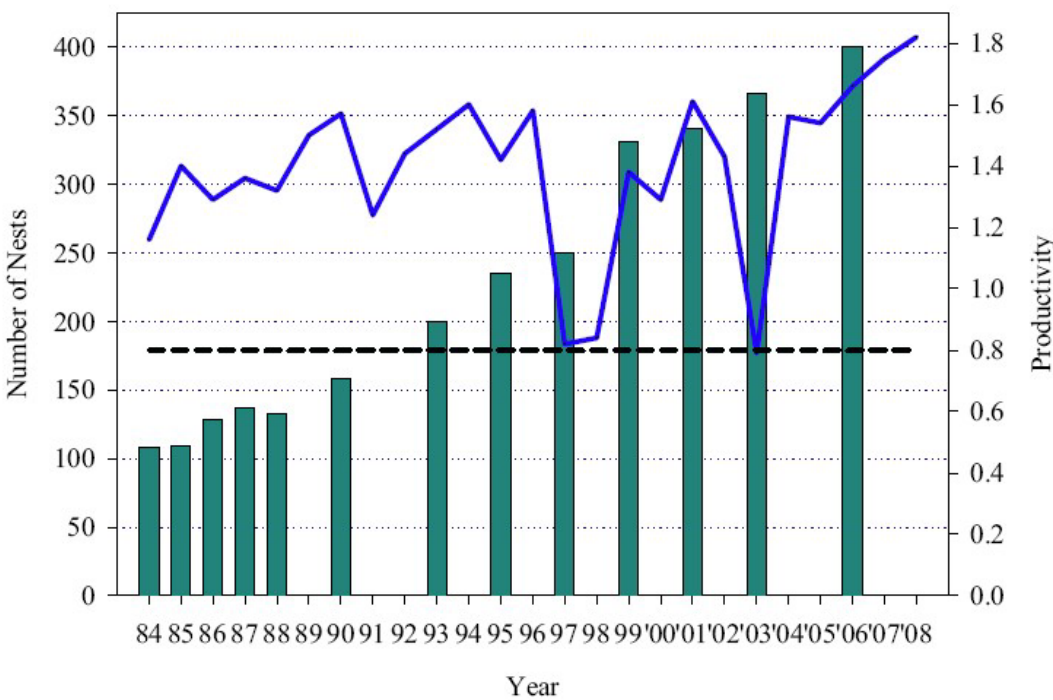
to wear while looking for critters in the mud scooped from the river, it did not deter the girls; they dug their spoons into the mud with enthusiasm. As a part of their badge requirements, the girls learned about water protection and conservation, and how water is used in the production of foods. We ended the day making environmentally safe laundry detergent. A very

fitting activity, especially when you combine pink clothes with river mud.



St. Vincent De Paul Outdoor Classroom: GEHWA is excited to continue working with St. Vincent De Paul during the 2008/2009 school year. Once again on September 19th we brought our “Stream Side Classroom” to the students in Mrs. Lombardi’s elective class on animals. The students were introduced to the macroinvertebrate animals found in streams. They learned how these animals are used to help determine water quality. The students also learned how chemical analysis (pH and Specific Conductance) can be used as a measure of water quality. The students sorted and identified the macroinvertebrates they found, and recorded their data. They were eager to learn and also fun to teach.

Osprey Nest Platform Update: Ten new osprey platforms were installed along the Great Egg Harbor and Middle Rivers in 2008. Both rivers are within the Great Egg Harbor estuary. There are now 28 osprey



platforms within the estuary. Fifteen have been added since the 2007 nesting season. GEHWA plans to assist in surveying the nests during the 2009 nesting season. Updates will be posted as data is obtained.

Figure 1. Osprey nesting population (bar) and productivity (heavy line) 1984-2008 in New Jersey. Productivity in 2008 was at its highest recorded level.

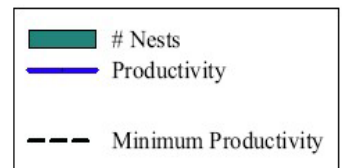


Table 1.

Nesting Area	# Nests Surveyed	Known-Outcome Nests	# Young	# Banded	Production 2008	Previous Years		
						2007	2006	2005
Great Egg Harbor/Ocean City	42	36	62	53	1.72	1.52	1.65	1.44

Table 1. Osprey nesting and productivity in 2008 of the Great Egg Harbor estuary. Productivity determined by ground survey in June-July. Productivity rates in 2005-2007 provided for comparison.

In New Jersey thirty-eight new nest structures were erected or discovered in 2008: more than half (21) were occupied, and fourteen produced 25 young. In typical fashion for NJ (and the East), most ospreys nested on man-made single-post structures (77%) and channel markers (5%), while only a few nested on antiquated 4-post nest platforms (3%). The occurrence of ospreys nesting on cell towers (1%) fluctuates from year to year, but that's a structure favored by inland-nesting ospreys. Other nests can be found on transmission towers (3%), duck blinds (3%), and in dead trees (2%).

Data prepared by: Kathleen Clark and Benjamin Wurst
Endangered and Nongame Species Program
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ

If you would like to review more detailed data of "The 2008 Osprey Project in New Jersey", please go to the following website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/pdf/osprey08.pdf>.



Where are the land stewards?

Land Stewardship Protects Watersheds

By Fred Akers

One very important tool to protect watersheds is for the public to purchase undeveloped lands and permanently preserve them. Some of the many public benefits of preserved open space are to:

- Protect drinking water,
- Lessen pollution by absorbing contaminants from air and water,
- Reduce flooding,
- Provide places to fish, swim, boat, hunt, hike, and watch wildlife,
- Protect forests, rivers, and natural areas,
- Prevent overdevelopment,

To help fund the protection of thousands of acres of open space in our watershed, voters have approved local open space taxes in Atlantic County, Gloucester County, Camden County, Berlin Borough, Berlin Township, Egg Harbor Township, Franklin Township, Gloucester Township, Monroe Township, and Weymouth Township.

State government and the Federal government have also made significant investments in open space preservation in our watershed through the voter approved Green Acres Garden State Preservation Trust, the Pinelands Conservation Fund, and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. These larger state and federal funds are often used to match local open space funds, adding to their value.

With the ever increasing pressure to build more developments in the watershed, it is very important to understand and promote the great public benefits of more open space preservation to elected officials and the public.

But it is also important to understand that simple open space acquisition does not necessarily constitute open space preservation. Once open space lands are purchased, they need to be cleaned up, restored, and actively maintained and protected forever.

The management and maintenance of our public lands takes time, talent, and money. But with the current sense of urgency to acquire more public lands while they are still available at today's values, the funding priority must continue to be on purchasing more lands over management and maintenance.

As the open space inventory increases, so does the need for management and maintenance. So to address these needs, the Great Egg Harbor River Council and Watershed Association are developing a Stewardship Program to assist landowners with projects such as site cleanup, natural resource inventories and restoration, access

creation, invasive species control, prevention and control of Off Road Vehicle damage, and other tasks and activities required to maintain public open spaces for their long term protection.

The Great Egg Harbor Watershed has been the grateful beneficiary of thousands of acres of land purchased to remain in a natural condition and not be paved over. Please join us as volunteer land stewards and help us to maintain and protect our open spaces.



****Member Meetings****
And
“What’s in Our Backyards?”

Don't forget!
The next members' meeting is at 7:00 pm on Tuesday
January 27, 2009 at the Warren Fox Nature Center in
Estell Manor.
Please mark your calendars.



GEHWA's 1st Paddle on Lake Lenape: On September 23rd four kayaks and two canoes launched from the banks of Lake Lenape for an evening paddle around the lake. There was a brisk wind while we were shore bound, but once we were on the lake the breeze died down and we enjoyed an easy paddle. Ducks quickly cruised away from our approaching boats. A green heron squawked and flew into a nearby tree. Swallows raced back and forth across the surface of the lake while they caught their evening meal of insects.



A great egret stealthily explored the shallows near shore. As the sun crept toward the horizon, the sky was transformed into a perfusion of color, pinks mixed with shades of blue and white. Slowly, we paddled back to shore as the evening sky darkened. We caught a fleeting glimpse of a hawk as we hauled our boats from the lake. While



stowing our gear, a casual glance upward revealed a sky now filling with stars, and bats rapidly flying in pursuit of insects.



The Story of Stuff: The movie “The Story of Stuff” was shown during the November 25th Member Meeting at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park. The narrator in the movie explained how we became a nation of excess and the impact that has had on the environment worldwide. Stimulating conversation followed the movie. Thoughts and ideas were shared about the products we buy, how production of what we buy impacts our environment, and what happens to our trash once

we are done using the products we bought. It was the general consensus of the group that it would be beneficial to show "The Story of Stuff" to students and those who may not understand how our consumptive lifestyles have a detrimental impact on the environment. If you would like to see "The Story of Stuff", it can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.storyofstuff.com>.

Having moved less than three years ago to my current home, I find that I still have quite an accumulation of stuff, even after sorting and discarding items prior to moving. The stuff I am referencing are items I thought I might need. In reality it is not stuff that I need or have room for in my home. Not wanting to discard usable items, I try, at every opportunity, to reuse or recycle (find the items a new home). Advertisements tempt me to purchase new bright and shiny things, things that catch my eye, and make the stuff I already have look old and tacky. Visiting my local garden center - one of my favorite places to visit - is another area where I must exercise restraint. There are many enticing statues, benches, hanging doodads, bird houses, birdfeeders, etc. that would look great in my backyard, but do I need any of these things? Will they make my backyard a friendlier habitat for all the animals that come to visit? I can be enticed to shop just as much as the next person. But having made a personal commitment to reduce my consumption of goods, I am able to resist the lure of always buying new (unnecessary) products. What can you do to reduce your personal consumption of goods? Join me, Lynn Maun, as we endeavor to make a positive impact on our world, one person at a time.



A Learning Experience at the End of a Season

By Lynn Maun

A while ago, I wrote about the beauty to be found in the buds that were bursting open on bushes and trees in my backyard. Now winter is fast approaching. Most leaves have fallen, annuals have died with the first frost, and the perennials are sleeping. It is hard to keep up with the changing seasons. Time slips away. Some things I wanted to accomplish in my yard will now have to wait until spring. For other, more urgent things, I just shrug and hope to find a mild day to attend to them.



Gray Hairstreak

In early fall, butterflies, bees and other insects jockeyed for a position on the few remaining flowering plants in my garden.



**Snowberry Clearwing
Sphinx Moth**

While the insects were intent on their feast, I grabbed my camera and my new book of insects, and attempted to photograph and identify these active critters. While on my quest to photograph and identify any interesting insects I might find, I discovered some unusual nuts on the ground. Using both a book on trees and the internet, I at first misidentified the nuts as American Chestnuts. I was very excited thinking I had found a surviving Chestnut tree that had produced nuts. But, after further research I learned that what I had found was a Chinese

Chestnut tree, and that there are several types of chestnut trees (European, Chinese, Japanese and American) in the United States. Though I was disappointed that my tree was not an American Chestnut, in my quest to discover what type of tree produced the nut I had found, I did learn about chestnut trees.



Teary rediscovering the world following his release

An update on the feral cats that visit my yard: Mommy cat went missing last April. We thought she had died, but towards the end of August she arrived just as I was feeding her sons dinner (she hasn't missed many meals since). The boys were happy to see her and ran over to greet her, but she wasn't as glad to see them and hissed and swung her paw at them. She is not a loving mother. The first week of September Teary was hit by a car. We think he was hit while chasing a rabbit (we found a dead rabbit near our mailbox the same day). After a short search, we found Teary leaning against the house with his left leg hanging limply at his side.

His chin was bloody and scraped and he had a very sad look on his face. We took him to the vet, and after declining several very costly procedures, brought him home (without any treatment to his leg) and

confined him in a shelter outside for two months (this was at the recommendation of the vet who told us his leg would heal if he was kept confined). Amazingly, his leg healed and it is hard to tell, from the way he walks, that his leg was broken. One leg is a bit shorter, but he has adjusted and is doing well. The second day after his release, a bully tomcat chased him about 20 feet up a tree. After I chased the tomcat away Teary slowly made his way back down the tree. His leg survived the first test.



Blackie playing with the flowers

Just prior to Teary's release from his confinement, Blackie was also hit by a car. He did not survive. Blacky, the hunter of the group, was frequently lured to the field across the street from our home by the prospect of a tasty meal of fresh rabbit (I guess two meals a day just didn't satisfy him). To get to the field, he had to cross the busy county road in front of our home. Brave One and Second have survived their first year of life without a major injury,

though Second did injure his hip and limped for awhile. Brave One, who was the first kitten that would let us pet him (hence

the name), is also the largest of the group. All of the surviving kittens (now cats) seem healthy. They take shelter in our stable and are provided meals twice a day. Their thick fur coats should keep them warm during their second winter.

Special Notice to All

Members: From: Julie Akers,
President GEHWA

RE: **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Tuesday MARCH 24, 2009 AT 7:00 FOX NATURE CENTER, RT. 50, ESTELL MANOR. **Please plan on attending.**

Winter Gardening Tips for Wildlife

Create a haven for wildlife by following these four simple tips:

1. **Provide food for wildlife** with native plants that offer acorns, berries, and seeds.
2. **Clean and fill your birdbath** on a regular basis. If you live in an area where temperatures freeze water, please invest in a birdbath heater.
3. **Anchor you old holiday tree** in a secluded part of you yard and wildlife will use it as shelter from winter weather.
4. **Provide additional cover for wildlife** by starting a compost pile of needles, pinecones and wreaths from you holiday decorations.

Tips from National Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org/habitat

Calendar of Events 2009

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

GEHWA Members Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

GEHWA Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Annual GEHWA Members Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

GEHWA Trustees Meeting and Annual Belinda Irizarry Memorial Fund Award Presentation

Sunday, April 26, 2009

ACUA Earth Day

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Wheaton Arts Eco Fair

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

*GEHWA Members Meeting
Hiking for Frogs*

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

GEHWA Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

*GEHWA Members Meeting
Picnic and Campfire*

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

GEHWA Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

*GEHWA Members Meeting
Event to be Announced*

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

GEHWA Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

GEHWA Members Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

GEHWA Trustees Meeting

Contact Information

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

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Email: fred_akers@gehwa.org

Web Site: www.gehwa.org

Lynn Maun, Coordinator (856) 453-0416

Email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net

National Park Service

Paul Kenney (215) 597-5823

Paul_Kenney@nps.gov

NJDEP Watershed Management Office

Robert Mancini (609) 777-0580

Atlantic County Department of Planning

Bob Lindaw (609) 645-5898

US Army Corps of Engineers (215) 656-6725

NJDEP Regulatory Office for Atlantic County (609) 292-8262

NJDEP Enforcement Officer
Kevin Brown (732) 255-0787

Pinelands Commission

Main Number (609) 894-7300

NJDEP Hotline: 1-877 WARN DEP

Give the Gift of a GEHWA Membership!

At Christmas or any time during the year

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

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

Please note: In order for your membership renewal to be tax deductible for 2008 it must be sent by the end of the year.



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