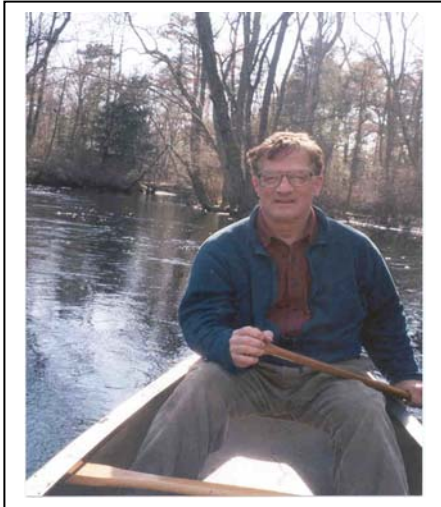




River Currents

October 2003

Issue 29



GEHWA Says Farewell to Joe Daniel

The loss of a quiet, gentle, man was felt at the August GEHWA Board Meeting. Members were saddened as the reality of Joe Daniel's unexpected death sunk in. It wasn't the same without Joe, a GEHWA Trustee for several years. Joe had much to offer GEHWA. Always eager to help, Joe devoted countless hours to GEHWA and always with a smile. Joe's knowledge and skills as a faculty member of Delaware Valley College were put to good use as GEHWA continued to move forward in its endeavors.

Joe's love of the river was well known and he enjoyed exploring the corridor with family and friends. His cabin along the river gave Joe an appreciation and understanding of the need for long-term protection. Joe will be sorely missed. His pleasant smile....his kindness.....his sincerity were attributes we all admired.

Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Barbara who has been involved with GEHWA, his two sons, and his Dad who sometimes attended GEHWA meetings.

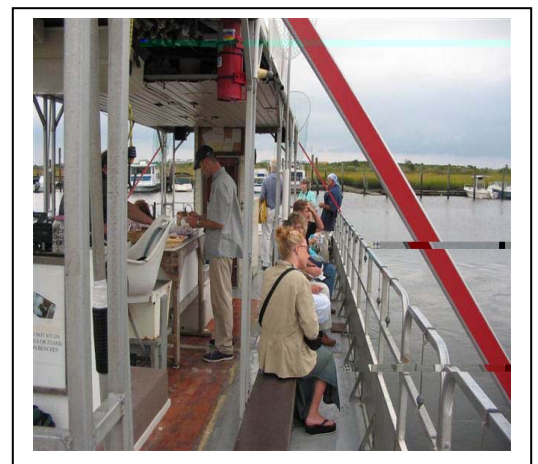
Thank you, Steve Eisenhauer!

Many thanks to Steve Eisenhauer, a GEHWA Trustee, as he entertained and educated attendees at the bi-monthly GEHWA meeting on September 23rd. Steve's slide show featuring both the Maurice and Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational Rivers provided interesting details about the past while also recognizing the work that continues

within both river corridors. The history of salt hay, cranberry and blueberry farming in both rivers explained some of the changes in the topography that were evident in aerial photographs. Steve is the Assistant Director of Stewardship and Protection for the Natural Lands Trust and continues to be actively involved in the long-term protection of both rivers.

GEHWA Dinner/Tour

The September 28th dinner cruise offered a very pleasant evening on the river and afterwards at dinner at Bubba Macs in Somers Point. The rain cleared just long enough for a beautiful tour of the Great Egg Harbor Bay and Patcong Creek on the pontoon boat the Duke O' Fluke. The Osprey were out and a good time was had by all.





GEHWA Receives Grant from Watershed Institute

A \$20,000 grant from the Watershed Institute will allow GEHWA to expand the River Administrator's activities in the watershed for a one-year period. Primarily funded through the National Park Service as a part-time position, the River Administrator has a full-time workload. Recognizing the importance of GEHWA in watershed protection, the funds will be used to pay the additional salary necessary for Fred Akers, GEHWA's River Administrator, to build upon and promote GEHWA's efforts to protect and restore the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed through research and educational awareness.

Weymouth Township Residents Face Open Space Question on November Ballot

The fate of an open space question rests in the hands of Weymouth Township residents this November. Recognizing the importance of protecting undeveloped land in the Township, an open space question will be placed on the November ballot. With support from the Environmental Commission, the Township Committee unanimously approved the binding question asking voters if they want a 1 cent per \$100 assessed value tax hike to purchase land and

protect it from development. If the voters approve the question, Weymouth Township will be eligible for matching funds from a variety of sources.

Weymouth Township residents are encouraged to take the time to vote in November in support of open space. With development occurring at a rampant pace, open space will be at a premium.

NJ Voters Can Make A Difference this November

On November 4th, New Jersey voters will have an opportunity to increase the amount the state can spend on preservation and community park development, without additional taxes or state appropriations. The additional \$150 million in open space spending would be supported by state bonds. No additional taxes or appropriations are required to issue the bonds because of today's low bond interest rates.

Governor James McGreevey has pledged \$50 million of the additional funding toward open space and farmland preservation in the Highlands, a critical environmental region in northern New Jersey and the source of drinking water for more than half of New Jersey residents. Another \$50 million has been earmarked for the development of community parks statewide, as part of the Governor's "Parks for the People" initiative. The remaining \$50 million in preservation funding has not yet been allocated.

If approved by the voters, the additional money would prove essential in protecting New Jersey's drinking water and open lands, both urban and rural. But land acquisition by itself is not sufficient. New Jersey's state and local leaders must also ensure that land purchases are coordinated with planning and regulations, to better protect important open lands and to ensure conservation purchases are cost efficient and effective.

Preservation spending, coupled with better land-use planning and "smart conservation" practices, can diminish the threat of sprawling development. Voters can help November 4th by voting to approve additional funding for Open space. Leaders can help by backing voter support with better planning and stronger open space regulations. (NJ Future Facts 9/23/93 edition)

GEHWA to Participate in County's Groundwater Advisory Committee

Recognizing the importance of the water supply issue, Atlantic County officials created a new Groundwater Advisory Committee. The Committee is comprised of a variety of people who are activists and familiar with water-related issues. The purpose of the Committee is to thoroughly review NJDEP activities and make sure that Atlantic County's interests in groundwater and withdrawal are clearly addressed. Fred Akers, GEHWA's River Administrator, Professor Jamie Cromartie from Stockton College, Joel Fogel of Waterwatch International, Richard Van Vranken of Rutgers Extension Services, are just a few of the 16-20 people appointed. The committee will serve in an advisory capacity to Atlantic County providing information on all ground water-related issues.



Part-Time Environmental Coordinator Needed in Gloucester County

The Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds is looking for a person to serve as a part-time Outreach and Education Coordinator for its "Building Watershed Awareness" project during 2003-2004. This position is for one year and is a contractual arrangement requiring 26 hours per month (total 312 Hours) for a flat fee of \$415 per month. The Coordinator will work from his/her home and be responsible for a variety of activities from setting up

and staffing booths at local township community days to promoting and enhancing the Federation's goals and objectives. Interested applicants are asked to submit a letter of application and resume by October 22, 2003 to: The Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds; P. O. Box 233; Glassboro, NJ 08028

NJDEP Crackdown on Unlawful Off-Road Vehicle Operators

Emphasizing the growing risk to public safety and increased damages to New Jersey's natural resources, NJDEP Commissioner Brad Campbell warned potential violators that regulations prohibiting off-road vehicle (ORV) use on public lands are being strictly enforced.

Campbell said the State of New Jersey will have zero tolerance in dealing with illegal off-road vehicle operators who pose an increasing threat to public safety and are causing extensive damage to protected natural resources. NJDEP is actively conducting area enforcement sweeps to deter illegal operators, impounding unregistered and uninsured vehicles and seeking maximum fines for all violators.

Between January 2003 and the second week of August, DEP conservation officers and park rangers issued 484 summonses against individuals participating in illegal ORV activities, resulting in fines of up to \$1,000 per violation. A total of 62 vehicles were impounded over the same time period, and 48 individuals were arrested and jailed. Illegal ORV use results in pollution, damage and destruction of sensitive

natural resources such as forest, streams and wetlands. In many cases, these resources are destroyed and cannot



be restored. In October 2002 Commissioner Campbell announced a new policy regarding ORV activities on DEP-administered lands that calls for strict enforcement of laws prohibiting ORV use on state property. The policy initiated ongoing cooperative efforts between the DEP and the Department of Transportation to establish further sanctions to deter ORV violators. In addition, new laws are being sought to ensure safe ORV use on specially designated lands, including a comprehensive licensing, registration and training program for all ORV operators.

Acknowledging that proper ORV operation has a recreational value to a growing number of residents in the state, the DEP's new policy calls for its Office of Natural and Historic Resources to develop appropriate recreational areas for lawful ORV use – while meeting the policy's safety and natural resource protection requirements. Two such facilities will be established by 2005.

Time To Grow



River Administrator's Desk

Just what is a watershed association, anyway? As I travel around the watershed and the state introducing myself as the Administrator for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, I often get a questioning expression. This is especially true here in our own watershed. Many people have either never heard of us or know very little about what we do. It's time we fixed this.

If you were to look at the Earth from an airplane or satellite, all you would see is the geography of the surface filled with mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes and oceans.

There are no political boundaries visible. Those areas that are bordered by hills on three sides, where water flows downhill from the high places to the low places -- usually a lake or ocean -- are what we call watersheds.

Watersheds are everywhere, and all the lakes, rivers, tributaries, wetlands, headwaters, and drainages in a given watershed are interconnected. Water is required for all life to exist, and the quantity of water in a watershed should be abundant to support this life. Clean water is necessary for the good health of most life forms, so the water in a watershed should be clean and plentiful enough to support all the life there.

The health of our watersheds is mostly dependent on our stewardship of the land and the water that flows through it, as we are the principal causes of the consumption and degradation of the quantity and quality of the water in a watershed. While political boundaries tend to separate us on an intellectual level, the water in a watershed should connect us on a physical level.

The applied stewardship of a watershed is now referred to as “watershed management”, and those people who join together to apply this stewardship often form watershed associations. The Great Egg Harbor River Watershed is fortunate to have had such an association for the past 15 years.

Encouraged by a national vision of the value of the water in the New Jersey Pinelands, a small group of visionary volunteers established the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) and worked to have the Great Egg Harbor River designated by Congress as a special National Partnership Wild & Scenic River. Many sections of the river were designated into the program in 1992, and over 10 years later the motivation for stewardship and the funding to implement this program are alive and well.

But what about all the other sections of the river, and all the headwaters, wetlands, impoundments, and other wet places in the entire watershed? Since all water flows downstream, the quantity and quality of all the water in our watershed is interconnected. The entire Great Egg Harbor Watershed needs an active level of stewardship.

How can just a handful of visionary volunteers provide good stewardship for all the 304 square miles of the entire watershed? The answer is that they cannot do it alone, nor can it be done for free. It is now time to grow stronger and larger to increase our stewardship capacity. If we want to maximize the water quantity and quality of our watershed, it is time to build some additions to the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association.

My vision for the future starts with two full-time staff positions, an office in the watershed, and a much larger membership. The National Park Service is already enabling us to leverage additional funding to build our capacity, as exemplified by their financial support of two part time staff and our subsequent ability to leverage the \$20,000 Dodge Foundation Grant from the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association for a full time Administrator.

Building to a level of full-time staff positions will not only provide the continuity to assure the implementation of vital projects and grants, but it will also provide the GEHWA Trustees with the in-house professional resources necessary to increase and support a larger membership and provide watershed management and stewardship to the entire watershed. As we increase our capacity, we can also increase the public awareness of our organization and our mission:

- To protect and restore the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed.
- To promote research and action to determine and secure a healthy river system.
- To expand public awareness, education and appreciation of the watershed's many valuable and unique resources.

How To Save Water Without Changing Your Lifestyle

For Instance:

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off the driveway.
- Don't use the toilet to flush down spiders or cigarette butts. They aren't worth it.
- Water the garden in the cool part of the day, preferably early morning. That way less will evaporate, and it takes a load off the peak demand to your water company.
- Only use a hose with an automatic "pistol" type nozzle.
- Use mulch on garden plants and shrubs to cut down on evaporation. It cuts down on weeding too.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine on a water saving cycle, and only when they are full

EHT Addresses Environmental Impacts

In an attempt to determine potential environmental impacts of proposed development, Egg Harbor Township officials are securing the services of a consultant. The consultant will be responsible for determining whether any threatened or endangered plant or animal species exist on sites proposed for development. The Township will take the information and educate the Pinelands Commission about the findings in an attempt to direct growth to appropriate areas. The consultant would work with the Township's Environmental Commission helping them review development applications and determine their impact on identified resources.

Water Fact

The three leading sources of water quality impairments in our nation include: runoff from agriculture, municipal point sources (i.e. wastewater treatment plants), and nonpoint sources of pollution (urban runoff)

Atlantic County Acquires Open Space in EHT

County Executive Dennis Levinson announced that Atlantic County will add another 63 acres of open space within the Pinelands regional growth areas with the purchase of a property in Egg Harbor Township. The property is adjacent to Riverbend Park, near the intersection of Pine Avenue and Asbury Avenue.

Plans for this acquisition come just a few weeks after the County announced a 37-acre purchase in Hamilton Township. Together the properties will add 100 acres to the nearly 500 acres of open

space acquired last year within the Pinelands growth communities of Egg Harbor, Galloway and Hamilton Townships and help to offset rapid development.

This particular property is zoned rural agriculture which could permit the construction of as many as 26 homes. The County will pay \$473,750 for the property with funding from the Atlantic County Open Space Trust Fund. As much as half of the acquisition costs are expected to be reimbursed by the State Green Acres Program.

NJ Fact

New Jersey will fall short of its voter-approved "million acres" open space goal by at least 350,000 acres, largely because of the rising cost of land.

Water Fact:

65% of NJ waterways are biologically impaired for drinking, recreation or fishing uses.

The New Jersey Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Most rare species inhabit privately owned lands in New Jersey. Incentive programs that assist private landowners in protecting and managing rare species can have a direct and positive impact on their conservation. It is the goal of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program's LIP program to provide financial and technical assistance to encourage landowners to help conserve rare species and habitats on their property. The program is flexible and is open to all private landowners who have a desire to voluntarily manage for rare species on their land.

The following criteria are used in deciding whether a property would be eligible. They are:

The property must contribute to the enhancement of at least one rare species OR its habitat;

Rare species include those species that are federally or state listed as threatened or endangered as well as species of special concern in New Jersey including vertebrates and invertebrates;

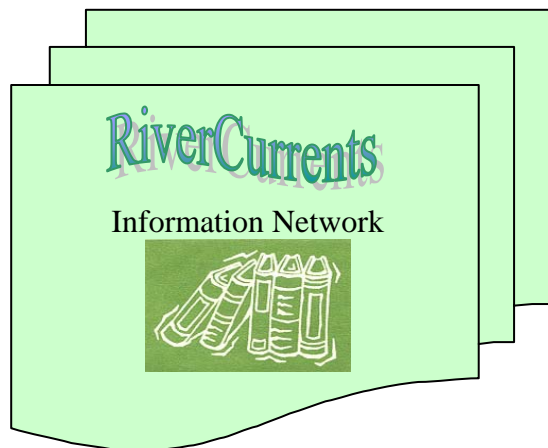
The property must have the potential to provide suitable habitat for a rare species. The natural movement of individuals onto that property must be feasible;

The results of the project must be measurable. Therefore, the landowner must agree to allow biologists onto their property for a pre-agreement survey and periodic progress checks to assess the success of the project objectives.

The landowner must be willing to sign a project agreement and management plan. Each agreement or management plan will be designed to meet the landowner's unique conservation and land use needs and objectives. LIP funds can be used for offsetting the cost of management activities such as habitat improvements or habitat management or protection. Interested? For more information, contact Kim Korth, Private Lands Biologist at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife; Endangered and Nongame Species Program; P. O. Box 400; Trenton, NJ (609) 984-1581

***Stormwater Runoff: Lost Resource or Community Asset?
A Guide to Preventing, Capturing and Recovering Stormwater
Runoff***

This User-friendly guide was written and published by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and is aimed at preventing, capturing and recovering stormwater and reducing flooding and pollution. The Handbook strives to inform and encourage citizens, decisionmakers and professionals to progress beyond the limited and damaging management practices that have been the standard for the past three decades. Laid out in an extensively documented and readable way, the guide walks the reader through the problems and the solutions. Fact sheets that are meant for copying and distribution are included, packed with information about conservation design methods, best management practices, and natural resource protection techniques. There is a \$15 cost, plus \$4 postage/handling. Contact: Delaware RiverKeeper; P. O. Box 326; Washington Crossing, PA 18977



25 Ways to Protect Your Stream and Streamside Property

Cost: free (10 free to non-profit and watershed associations). This brochure is designed to help homeowners improve their management of streamside properties. A list of recommended plants for riparian buffers is the centerpiece of this informative brochure. Contact: Delaware River Keeper (address above)

Restoring Our Streams: Communities Coming Together - a video

Cost \$5 (one copy free to nonprofits or community watershed groups). A 20-minute video introduction to organizing a restoration project. Geared toward watershed groups starting out in restoration, it follows Riverkeeper and its partners through the steps of organizing and implementing a project. (address above)

EPA - NPS Solution Toolbox

To assist communities to reduce nonpoint source pollution, advance better stormwater management, and comply with the Phase II Stormwater Regulations, the EPA has posted eleven (11) new Factsheets that describe: stormwater, nonpoint source pollution, its impact on water quality and Nonpoint source pollution reduction and management strategies. These guidance documents encourage personal stewardship around the home, farm, business and local community to prevent nonpoint source pollution. EPA will shortly launch a (1) How-to guide for a local NPS outreach campaign and (2) sample materials or templates tailored to the community's local problems. www.epa.gov/owow/nps/facts/

NJ Stormwater BMP Manual

NJDEP is updating the Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual which describes the benefits and limitations of various stormwater management strategies such as: minimize land disturbances and increase naturalized landscaping; minimize and disconnect impervious surfaces; minimize nutrient loadings by reducing grass lawns and fertilizer use, and improved management of geese or pet waste; assess the use of grassed swales and retention basins, rather than sewers and dry detention basins. Model Ordinances are being drafted. Review the revised stormwater manual at: www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/bmpmanual2003.htm

Useful Websites on Stormwater

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

www.thewatershed.org

Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

www.ANJEC.org

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

www.state.nj.us/dep

NJDEP Freshwater and Biological Monitoring

www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/bfbm

NJDEP Watershed Management

www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/index.htm

Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Mgt. Committee

www.tentowns.org

The Center for Watershed Protection

www.cwp.org

US EPA - NPS Solution Toolbox

www.epa.gov/owow/nps/facts/

A Reminder About Streamside Buffers

Healthy streams and rivers are valuable and vital natural resources. How we manage the land around them directly affects their health - for both better and worse. There's more to a stream than the stream itself. The land right next to a stream or river is part of the riparian zone. This zone includes a stream, its banks, the surrounding floodplain and any connected wetlands.

To take good care of our streams it's important to take good care of the land surrounding them. The first and most important step is to establish a streamside buffer (also called a riparian buffer). This is an area along the edge of the stream that protects it from pollution and erosion. Trees and plants growing here play a critical role in keeping the stream healthy. The buffer zone absorbs nutrients and pollutants. It slows the runoff of rainwater into the stream and filters out sediments. Trees and shrubs with deep root systems hold the soil and resist erosion. They also act like shock absorbers that diffuse the energy of floodwaters and thus reduce damage downstream. Trees cast shade that cools the water, reduces the growth of algae and improves fish habitat.

Tips for Creating a Streamside Buffer:

- Begin with a "no mow" zone or "no graze" zone along your stream banks. An idea buffer is 35-75 feet wide. Make yours as wide as possible.
- Plant trees and shrubs in your buffer zone. They provide many long-lasting benefits and can be quite inexpensive to establish and maintain.
- Using shrubs will give your buffer a quick start; many reach full size in just a few years.
- Use native grasses, trees and shrubs.
- Where you do keep a lawn, set your mower blades at least three inches high. Taller grass slows runoff, resists drought and needs less fertilizer.

Streamside buffers do more than protect the stream. A meadow or buffer with trees and shrubs is home to birds, butterflies and other fascinating creatures.

(Excerpted from "25 Ways to Protect your Stream and Streamside Property prepared by the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania)

Calendar of Events

October 4th, Saturday

Pinelands Celebration; Pinelands Preservation Alliance

10AM to 4PM; Historic Whitesbog Village
Route 530; Browns Mills, NJ; Call 609-894-8000

October 12th; Sunday

Coast Day New Jersey - Cape May

Celebrate NJ's marine and coastal environment and all that it provides. You'll enjoy music, dock and ship tours, eco-tours and lots of "hands-on" family fund designed to help you learn

more about New Jersey's 127-mile coastline. For more information, call (732) 872-1300, ext. 22.

October 19th, Sunday

19th Annual Batsto Country Living Fair

10AM to 4PM; Batsto Village; Wharton State Forest
Route 542; Hammonton, NJ; Call 609-561-0209

October 25th, Saturday

National Wildlife Refuge Day

11AM to 3PM; Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge
Rt. 9; Oceanville, NJ; Call 609-748-1535

** **Gloucester Co. Federation of Watersheds** – 4th Thurs. of every month; 7PM; Scotland Run Nature Cntr.

** **Great Egg Harbor NS&R River Council** – 3rd Wednesday of every month; 7PM; Fox Nature Center

** **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association** – 4th Tuesday every other month; 7PM; Fox Nature Center;

Estell Manor Park; Jan/Mar/May/July/Sep/Nov 2003

For more information on events and programs: Call (609) 567-4762; www.greategg.org or e-mail gehwa.gehwa@verizon.net.

REMEMBER – If you become aware of an environmental incident, call the NJDEP’s 24-hour, toll-free hotline which is **1-877-WARN-DEP**.

Telephone Numbers to Remember:

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

P. O. Box 900; Hammonton, NJ 08037
e-mail address: gehwa.gehwa@verizon.net
Internet address: www.greategg.org

Julie Akers, President (856) 697-6114
Belinda Irizarry, Coordinator; (609) 567-4762

Great Egg Harbor River Administrator

Fred Akers, (856)-697-6114; Akers@gowebway.com

National Park Service

Mary Vavra (215) 597-9175; mary_vavra@nps.gov

NJDEP Watershed Management Office

Adriana Calle (609) 777-0586

Atlantic County Department of Planning

Bob Lindaw (609) 645-5898

NJDEP Hotline - 1- 877-WARN DEP

US Army Corps of Engineers

(215) 656-6725

NJDEP Regulatory Office for Atlantic Co.

(609) 292-8262

NJDEP Enforcement Officer

Kevin Brown (732) 255-0787

Membership Information

Your membership assures our survival as a non-profit advocate for the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed. Without you, we could not exist. Thanks for your support.

Name/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail address: _____

Annual Membership: Individual: \$7; Family: \$15; Supporting: \$20; Patron: \$50; Corporate \$100

_____ Check here if non-profit organization

Please mail this form along with your check to: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, P. O. Box 900; Hammonton, NJ 08037