



RiverCurrents



Fall 2012

www.gehwa.org

Issue 60

This year's weather has challenged us in many ways, starting with June's derecho and, hopefully, ending with hurricane Sandy. To those in our GEHWA family who have been impacted by the storms of 2012, we would like you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Just as many communities were finally finished cleaning up from the June derecho, hurricane Sandy came barreling towards our shores causing even greater destruction. If you have a story you would like to share about any of the extreme weather events of 2012, please send them to Lynn Maun at lynnkmaun@comcast.net for publication in the next newsletter.



Hurricane Sandy had a big impact on the bluffs at Kennedy Park. Most, if not all of the 150 bushes that students from Dawes Avenue School planted several years ago, were swept away in the storm.

GEHWA's Fall Adventure on the Great Egg Harbor River

We had hoped to have a two day boating adventure on September 29 & 30, 2012 on the Great Egg Harbor River with overnight camping at Camp Acagisca. But, due to the amount of damage from the June derecho to many of Atlantic County's parks - and especially to the trees and buildings at Camp Acagisca - we had to modify our plans at the last minute. Since our two day event was reduced to one day this year, we are planning a two day event for September 2013. On Saturday, September 29th, we met in the parking lot at Weymouth Furnace. There was a slight chill in the air, just right for a paddle on the river. The sky was slightly overcast, and the forecast was for a possibility of rain later in the day. We paddled from Weymouth Furnace to Lake Lenape without a drop of rain. It was a great day on the river.



Julie Akers observes how low the water level, and slow the flow is, on the Great Egg Harbor River at Weymouth Furnace, as Ira Grindlinger prepares his canoe for a day on the river.

Dodging obstacles on the river wasn't too difficult. The reduced velocity of the ...continued on page 2

...continued from page 1 river helped us avoid getting tangled up in the trees and brush overhanging the river. As we traveled downriver, Julie and Lynn would often lag far behind the



Mushrooms and moss growing on the bank of the river

other travelers. They got caught up photographing their many discoveries along the river.

There was a hint of color in the foliage along the banks of the river. A sure sign that summer was definitely over and a new season was underway .

We were the only paddlers on our segment of the river. It was very tranquil. Conversations were generally held with the person in the boat closest to you. Even though we were fairly quiet, we unintentionally disturbed the wildlife along the river. A pair of Great Blue Herons took off and landed several times as we moved downstream, until they finally flew far enough away that we no longer disturbed them.



Stopping for lunch on the beach at Camp Acagisca

We continued on our journey with full bellies knowing that we did not have much further to travel to reach the top of Lake Lenape. Once we reached the lake, we were happy to find the wind at our backs, making it easy to reach the end of our journey near the boat launch in Lake Lenape Park. As we neared



Ducks going

the beach, we were greeted by some ducks hoping for a handout. They quickly learned they would not be getting any food from us and so they turned around and swam away.

It was a great day for a leisurely paddle on the Great Egg and we are looking forward to doing it again next year. Hope you can join us!



Becky and Jim easily avoid an overhanging tree branch



Ira and Jim observing the fall colors?

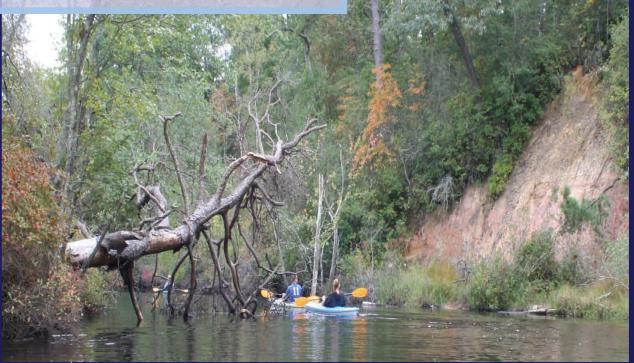
After several hours of paddling, our bellies signaled that it was time to stop for lunch. We beached our kayaks and one canoe at Camp Acagisca, grabbed our lunches from our boats and used the one and only picnic table on the beach. Julie shared tomatoes freshly picked from her garden. They quickly disappeared.



Ducks coming



Enjoy some additional pictures from the River Adventure



Rain Drops Couldn't Keep the Picnickers Away

The threat of rain and closed parks did not deter the picnickers from attending GEHWA's 7th annual picnic and campfire on July 24th. We had to relocate from Weymouth Furnace because not all of the damaged trees had been cleared. The lake front picnic area at Lake Lenape was open, so we decided to move our annual event to a new location. Lake front was just as nice as river front.



Enjoying a good meal.

Not long after we setup the food tables and started the grill and firepit, a few raindrops started to fall. Fortunately it wasn't enough rain to prevent the hotdogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers from getting cooked. As we filled our plates with a delicious assortment of salads and meats, the rain got a bit more serious.

While we were sitting around the picnic table eating, an Atlantic County Park Ranger stopped by to tell us that there was a severe

weather warning for the area. We asked how soon before the severe weather would hit our area and he told us we had



Keeping things dry.

about an hour. So we finished our dinner and started to pack up. It was starting to rain harder.

What's a campfire without the makings for S'mores. Jazilyn Quish and her friend



The coals are just right for toasting marshmallows.

were not about to let a good campfire go to waste. They grabbed some marshmallows and soon had them toasted and gooey enough to place on top of a bit of chocolate and squash between two graham crackers.

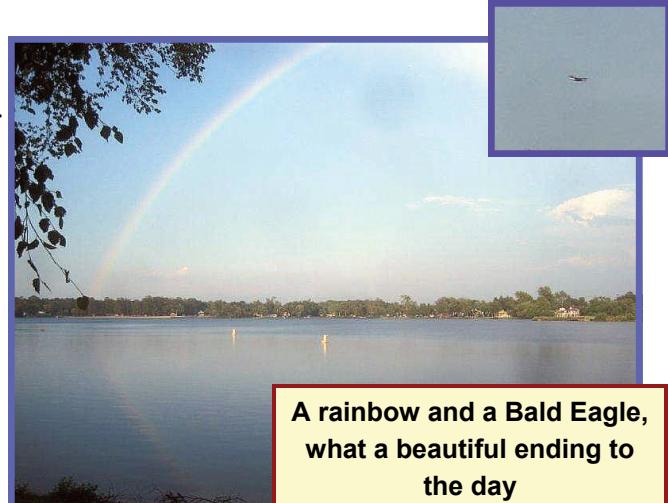


Julie's helping the girls make their S'mores.

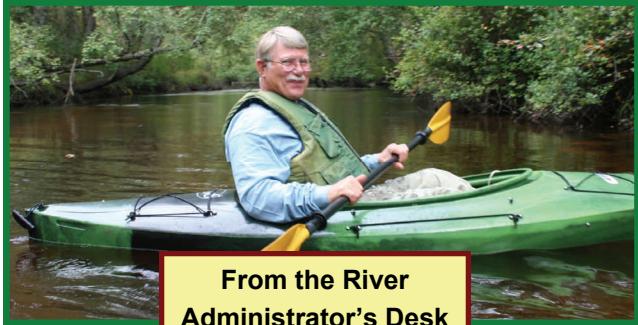
It was raining hard when most of the picnickers finally left the park.

Julie and Fred stayed behind to tend to the fire pit. While they waited, two late arrivals showed up. Not much food was left, except for some hamburgers and hotdogs.

The storm passed quickly and as the skies cleared, Fred and Julie were rewarded for staying behind in the rain. They were treated to a beautiful rainbow over the lake and a Bald Eagle soaring overhead.



A rainbow and a Bald Eagle, what a beautiful ending to the day



**From the River
Administrator's Desk**

New Jersey 2013 "Keep it Green - Sustainable Funding Campaign"

The 2013 "Keep it Green - Sustainable Funding Campaign" is working to create a stable source of constitutionally - dedicated funds for the acquisition, capital improvements, and stewardship of state and local natural areas, parks, farmland and historic sites in New Jersey. NJ Keep It Green supports at least \$200 million in annual, dedicated funding for the next

several decades to continue critical open space, farmland and historic preservation efforts as well as ensure better stewardship of preserved lands, parks and historic sites.

Some Facts

Preservation Accomplishments

- As of 2011, 650,000 acres of land have been preserved and 1,100 park developments projects were made possible.
- In 2012, 200,000 acres of farmland have been preserved.
- 477 historic sites have been preserved.

Economic Benefits:

- A 2009 study by The Trust for Public Land found that every \$1 invested in state land preservation programs returns \$10 in economic value through nature's goods and services, such as flood control and filtering air and water pollutants.
- The average home price increases 10% when it is located within 1,500 feet of natural areas.
- Parks contribute up to 20% of the value of homes in urban areas.
- 1,931 farms generated \$30 million in income from sales of edible farm products in 2007.
- 38 jobs are created for every \$1 million spent restoring historic nonresidential buildings, 2 jobs more than the same money spent on new construction.
- 7,000 jobs are supported by our public recreation lands.
- Wildlife-related tourism is estimated to generate about \$3 billion of gross economic activity annually, representing about \$1 billion of wage and salary income annually or about 37,000 jobs.
- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that, each year, over 2.6 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New Jersey, contributing \$1.7 billion to the economy.

Environmental and Health Benefits:

- For every 10% increase in forest cover, water treatment and chemical costs decrease by 20%.
- In one urban park (524 acres), tree cover was found to remove daily 48 lbs of particulates, 9 lbs of nitrogen

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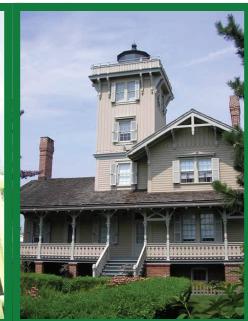
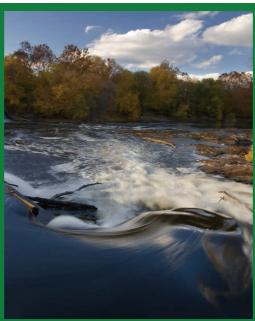
- Open space in New Jersey supports approximately 900 wildlife species.
- Access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising three or more times per week.
- Increased activity levels improve health, reducing obesity rates and health care costs.

Despite the many accomplishment of state preservation programs, NJ is faced with “near total build-out by 2050. This means that approximately 1 million acres that are currently unprotected and that are developable, will either be **preserved** or **developed** in the coming years. If we wish to safeguard our drinking water supply, protect sensitive natural areas and maintain the viability of agriculture in the Garden State, then hundreds of thousands of acres of priority lands must still be preserved. Also, quality parks and recreation facilities must be readily available to more New Jerseyans, particularly in urban areas.

Summary of Needs:

- 81% of Green Acres grant requests are unfunded.
- 58% of Historic Preservation grant requests are unfunded.
- According to the SADC, 300,000 additional acres of farmland need to be preserved to maintain a viable agriculture industry.
- Jersey City and Newark rank near the bottom in playgrounds per resident according to a survey of the 100 largest U.S. cities.
- \$730 million is needed to restore historic places statewide, according to a May 2012 survey by the NJ Historic Trust.
- The State Pinelands Area features some of the largest unbroken tracts of forest in the eastern U.S. and is home to 43 threatened or endangered animal species and 27 wild orchid species. The Pinelands lies above the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer which contains an estimated 17.7 trillion gallons of water. It is a surficial aquifer which leaves it very susceptible to contaminants and requires greater protections from over-development of land. Although 415,000 acres of the Pinelands Area have been preserved as open space, the Pinelands Commission identified approximately 333 locations totaling 64,947 acres are in need of greater protection and acquisition (<http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/science/complete/eia/index.html>).

By identifying and supporting a dedicated funding source for the **“Keep It Green - Sustainable Funding Campaign”** we will also be supporting the protection and enjoyment of NJ by future generations. If you would like to get involved and/or learn more about “Keep It Green” visit <http://www.njkeepitgreen.org>.



**The end of 2012 is approaching fast.
If you haven't renewed your GEHWA
Membership, please consider doing so
before the end of the year.**

**Your annual membership
contributions help GEHWA provide environ-
mentally based programs to local schools
and continue to be an advocate for the pro-
tection 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

The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association's Environmental Programs are FREE

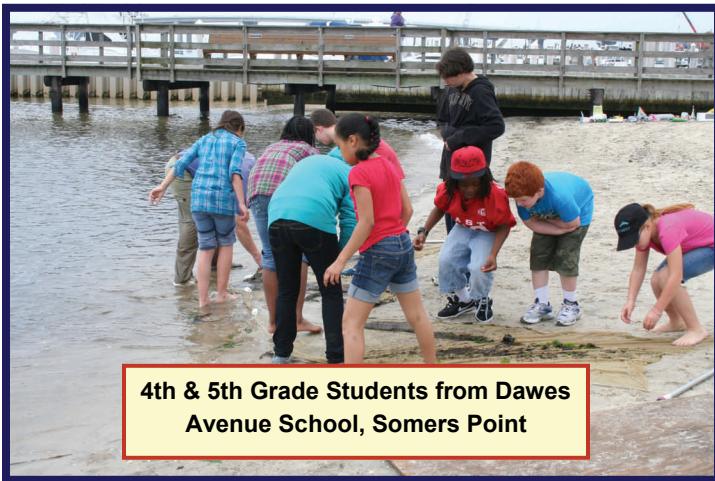
We offer our environmentally focused programs **free** of charge to augment existing school curriculum. A school's environmental programs are often threatened when faced with annual budget cuts. If you are a parent, and/or an educator, and feel our programs would enhance the environmental education that your child/student is receiving, please contact the appropriate individual in your school and request that they take



5th Grade Students at St. Vincent DePaul, Mays Landing

advantage of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association's **free** programs. If you would like additional information please contact Lynn Maun, Education Outreach Coordinator at 856-453-0416 or lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

REMEMBER
**Our environmentally focused programs
are FREE!**



4th & 5th Grade Students from Dawes Avenue School, Somers Point

"Food for thought on sustainable living"

Published in the State We're In (Volume XLV, No.29) by Michele S. Byers, Executive Director of NJCF

"I have to admit, many times I feel exasperated and powerless with the problems facing us and our environment," said Gail Kopp. "Climate change, monoculture, wildlife diversity loss, fish population collapse, Franken-food, obesity, water pollution, and food animal cruelty. They all seem so large." But instead of throwing up her hands and giving up, Gail launched into research on sustainable living. According to the most common definition, living sustainably "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." After extensive research, Gail concluded that the best way she and her family could live more sustainably is through thoughtful food choices and an improved household environment. Here's her advice:

Cook: Never before has the simple act of cooking been so important and so powerful. When we buy convenience foods or eat fast foods, we're supporting industrial agriculture, which is harmful to the environment and not ecologically sustainable. Many prepared and fast foods are made from corn or soy, crops raised in vast monoculture swaths using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. When we cook, we choose fresh ingredients. We control the calories and portions, and can leave out preservatives, trans-fats, high-fructose corn syrup, artificial colors and flavors. Grocers take great interest in our purchases, and every time we choose "real food," we vote for sustainability.

Eat less meat: Approximately 70 percent of the grains grown in this country are fed to "food animals." Entire forest ecosystems are being converted to cattle ranches to support demand for meat. When we eat less meat, we can afford to buy better quality meat. Look for organic, pasture-raised, free-range, antibiotic-free, humanely and sustainably raised meats. For fish, think of wild, pole-caught, dolphin and turtle safe, and species with healthy populations.

Eat mostly plants: It takes 10 times more fossil fuels to raise a calorie of animal-source food than it does to grow a calorie of plant-source food. Organic fruits and vegetables are best, but for conventional produce, choose those grown with the fewest pesticides. Our most sustainably-raised food comes from local farmers. Purchase your produce right off the farm, at farmers markets, at food co-ops and or through Community Supported Agriculture programs.

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Grow a garden: There's not much more sustainable than fresh, wholesome vegetables and fruit grown in your own back yard. Take a soil test, adjust your soil as needed with organic products, plant organic seeds and enjoy deliciousness no supermarket produce can touch!

Keep your soil alive: The soil is a complex engine of living organisms. Chemicals like fertilizers, weed-killers and fungicides destroy the soil and its organisms. Organic management works! It may take more startup time and investment, but will pay off big dividends and become easier in the long term.

Make your yard a sanctuary: Bring on the birds and bees! Pollination, seed dispersal and insect control are just a few of their benefits. Soften the impact of wildlife habitat loss by providing food, water, shelter and nesting sites. Plant native species of shrubs, grasses and trees to support birds, butterflies, beneficial pollinators and maybe even a gorgeous fox!

Compost: Thriftiness goes a long way. Don't throw yard and kitchen wastes into the trash; our landfills are overflowing already! Compost leaves, grass clippings, fruit peels and vegetable scraps, and return their essential nutrients to your garden, trees, shrubs and lawn. Recycle or repurpose everything you can.

Support local businesses: When you buy from your neighbors, you localize the dollars and jobs and improve sensitivity to community development issues. This tends to support compact town centers that conserve land and petroleum.

Vote your heart: Distill it down to the top sustainability issues that really matter to you, whether it's environment, energy, agriculture, technological innovation or public transportation. Express your opinions and let your elected representatives know how to earn your vote.

There are plenty of ways to live more sustainably, and I hope you will take on Gail's list! For more information and advice on sustainable living, there are many good websites, including www.grist.org and <http://greenlivingideas.com>.

And to learn more about preserving New Jersey's land and natural resources, visit the New Jersey Conservation Foundation website at www.njconservation.org or contact me at info@njconservation.org.

Contact Information

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

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Fred Akers, Administrator (856) 697-6114
P. O. Box 109; Newtonville, NJ 08346
Email: red_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
(609) 777-0580

Atlantic County Department of Planning
(609) 645-5898

US Army Corps of Engineers (215) 656-6725

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

NJDEP Enforcement Officer
(732) 255-0787

Pinelands Commission
Main Number (609) 894-7300

NJDEP 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**

Calendar of GEHWA and GEHRC Meetings

2012 & 2013

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2013 - GEHWA Member Meeting (Topic TBA)

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - GEHWA Member Meeting (Annual Meeting)

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 28, 2013 - GEHWA Member Meeting (Annual Frog Walk)

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2013 - GEHWA Member Meeting (Picnic and Campfire)

Wednesday, August 21, 2013 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 28-29, 2013 - GEHWA Canoe/Kayak/Camping Event

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 - GEHWA Member Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2013 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting



Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
PO Box 109
Newtonville, NJ 08346-0109