



RiverCurrents



Summer 2012

www.gehwa.org

Issue 59

HOLD The DATE - Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this new GEHWA event. Once Atlantic County Parks reopen we will confirm the date and let you know it is a go!!!!

GEHWA is planning an exciting new event that will be held September 29 & 30, 2012 at Camp Acagisca in Mays Landing. It will include two days boating on the Great Egg Harbor River, and for those daring enough to rough it, a night camping at Camp Acagisca. Dinner and breakfast will be provided for **\$20.00** for each person. **BYO** lunch for Saturday and Sunday . On Saturday we will meet at Camp

Acagisca at **9:00am**. We will launch our boats (canoes/kayaks only) from the Campground and take a leisurely paddle down river to Lake Lenape where we will load our boats back onto our vehicles for the trip back to the camp. Once back at camp, those who would like



to spend the night can set up their tents. On Sunday following breakfast, and after breaking down the camp, we will travel to Weymouth Furnace to launch our boats and travel downriver to the beach at Camp Acagisca (map of Acagisca on page 2). Each

day we will stage our vehicles downriver so that we can transport our boats at the end of the paddle. Transportation back to where the paddle begins each day, from where you parked your vehicle, will be provided during the event.



Great Egg Harbor River



Please let us know if you plan on attending this EXCITING NEW event. If you have any questions please call Lynn Maun @856-453-0416 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net



How to Cut Back on Electrical Use this Summer by Turning OFF the AIR CONDITIONER!

1. We can start learning to tolerate warmer temperatures by turning off the AC.
2. Once our bodies acclimate to the warmer temperatures, it gets easier to live without the AC running 24/7.
3. On nights when the outdoor temperature is cooler than the indoor temperature, open the windows and let the cooler evening breezes in. Use ceiling fans, floor or window fans, or a whole house fan (attic fan) to help circulate the air. Move the central air switch from AC to fan and use it to circulate the air throughout the house without the high cost of running the AC.
4. A whole house fan (attic fan) will draw the cooler air into the home.
5. In the morning when the temperature starts to climb, close the windows to keep out the heat. Resist turning the AC back on. Continue to run the fans. And see if you can get acclimated to warmer temperatures within your home. Also, if your house is shaded the odds are that it will stay cooler. ***Go Green* Tip!** Remember that fans keep people cool, not rooms. So if you're not in the room, turn off the fan. Make sure your fan is blowing air down, not up!
6. Close the curtains or window blinds on the sunny side of the house to help keep out the heat.
7. Replacing the AC by using fans can help **lower the electric bill**. Fans trick your body and mind into thinking it's cooler than it actually is by blowing hot air away from your body. Fans can make a room feel up to 8 degrees cooler. If you need to run the AC set it to 83 degrees and run a fan, it could feel more like 75 degrees.
8. Find tips on "How to Cool Yourself without Air Conditioning at <http://www.wikihow.com/Cool-Yourself-Without-Air-Conditioning>.



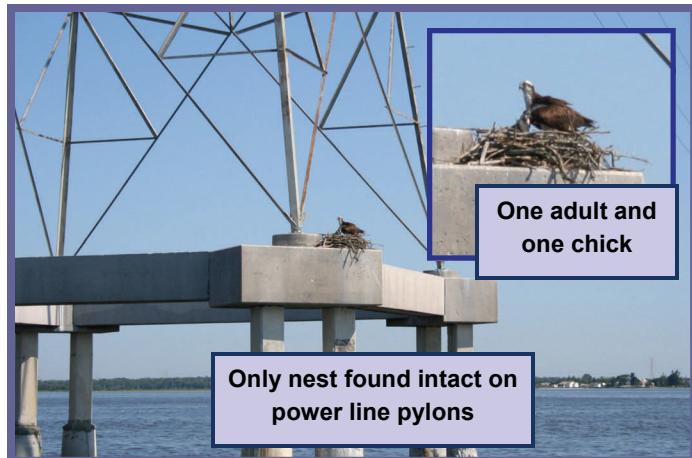
Osprey Nests No Match against the High Winds Produced by the Derecho

by Lynn Maun

Shortly after midnight on Saturday, June 30th an unexpected storm of historic magnitude hit New Jersey. During the storm, I gazed in awe at the ceaseless lightening strikes that lit the night sky. At the same time, I found myself praying that the winds, which were bowing trees over until their top branches touched the ground, would not cause too much destruction. This unusual storm slammed the region and left many of us cut off by downed trees and without electricity. Saturday morning, as I surveyed the damage wrought to my backyard, I had no idea how widespread the destruction was, nor that there was loss of life. I would discover later in the week that even Osprey nests weighing hundreds of pounds, were unable to withstand the high winds produced by the derecho.



Early Friday morning on July 6th, Fred and I set out in his boat from the English Creek Marina to count and band Osprey chicks that were in nests on the Great Egg and Tuckahoe Rivers. The first nests that we wanted to survey were those that the Osprey had built on the concrete pylons that hold up the electrical towers that cross the Great Egg Harbor Bay, and run parallel to the Garden State Parkway.



Early in the season Fred had observed four active nests on four separate pylons. In late May, there were three active nests, apparently one had failed. On July 6th, at the first electrical tower, we observed one chick and one adult on the nest. As we approached the next tower, we could see that something was not right. Both adults were perched on the beams of the tower and the nest was left unguarded. When we saw the nest, we realized there was nothing left to guard. The remnants of the nest that remained on the concrete base was empty, the chick(s) nowhere to be seen. We assume that the strong winds from the derecho had blown the young, along with the nest, off of the concrete pylon and that they had drowned in the bay. At the next pylon there was an adult sitting on the remnants of the nest, but that nest was also empty of young. It was a distressing sight. Osprey can dive feet first into the water to catch fish, but they do not float on the water like ducks and gulls.

Leaving the bay, we cruised to the Tuckahoe River where we would begin our ...continued on page 4

...continued from page 4 survey of the nesting platforms erected on the marsh. As we approached the first nesting platform, we observed an adult Osprey on the ground near the platform. This was unusual behavior. Generally the adult is either on the nest or perched near the nest. Just prior to



Parents circling the nest. One parent carrying a fish

Fred beaching the boat on the sod bank, the adult Ospreys took to the air; their distress cry warning their chick(s) of an approaching threat. They remained airborne the entire time we were on the marsh near the nesting platform and, in fact, they were also joined by additional Osprey. At one time, I counted 8 adult Osprey circling the nest. I wondered if

these additional Osprey were joining in the fracas because they no longer had any young to protect.

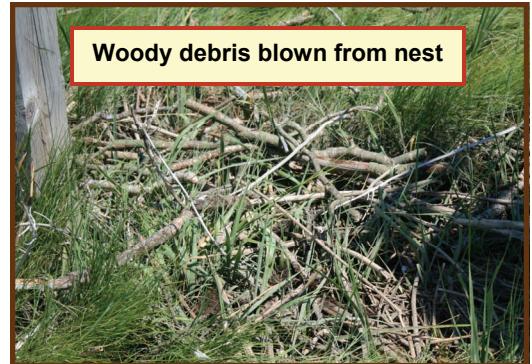


Take-off from the nest



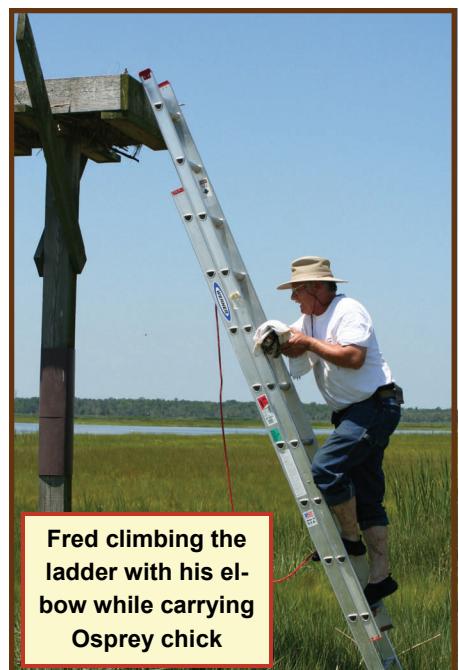
Osprey chick playing dead on the ground

After disembarking from the boat, we approached the nest on foot and discovered a live chick on the ground next to the base of the platform. It was playing dead amidst the refuse of its nest. Heeding its parent's warning cry, an Osprey chick will lay flat in the nest (or on the ground) "playing dead"



Woody debris blown from nest

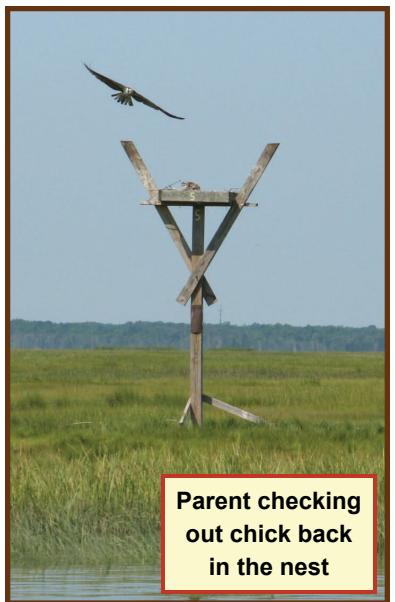
in an attempt to avoid detection by a predator. A quick exam of the chick revealed no injuries. Fred covered the chick with a towel - this helps the bird to remain calm - and using his elbows to climb the ladder, carried the chick back up to the nest. After banding the young bird, we boarded the boat and proceeded to the next nesting platform. But, before we were out of site of the first nesting platform, we saw an adult Osprey fly over the nest several times, observing its chick now back in the nest. Prior to landing on the nest, the parent had to chase off a wannabe surrogate parent trying to land on the nest. We continued up the Tuckahoe River, not sure what we would encounter at the next nest. I wondered just how widespread the damage from the derecho would be to the Osprey nests.



Fred climbing the ladder with his elbow while carrying Osprey chick

As we approached each new nesting platform, I waited to see how close we could get before the adults took off. If one of the

adults had a fish in its talons while on the nesting platform, it would take to the air grasping the fish as it circled the nest crying out a warning to its young. At one nest, as I was preparing to climb the ladder to photograph the chicks, I got hit in the head by something. I felt my head, expecting to get a wet hand. When my hand remained dry, I was somewhat confused, ...continued on page 5



Parent checking out chick back in the nest

...continued from page 5 because something had definitely hit me in the head. Later, after I climbed down the ladder, I found a fairly intact bunker (only missing its head) on the ground and guessed this is what had hit me. The bird had pretty good aim. Maybe, if an Osprey takes off with a fish when the nest is threatened the fish is used as a defense against predators threatening their young.



Face plant in the mud

During the day, as we traveled from nest to nest, we found both intact nests and nests that had succumbed to the relentless winds. We found four additional live chicks on the ground and two that had not survived their fall from the nest. At one nest, one chick was on the ground while its sibling was still in the nest. The chick on the ground did a face plant into the mud while playing dead. The two siblings were reunited and banded in their nest. At the last stop of the day we found three chicks huddled together on the ground. We returned them to their nest. I think Fred had sore elbows the next day.

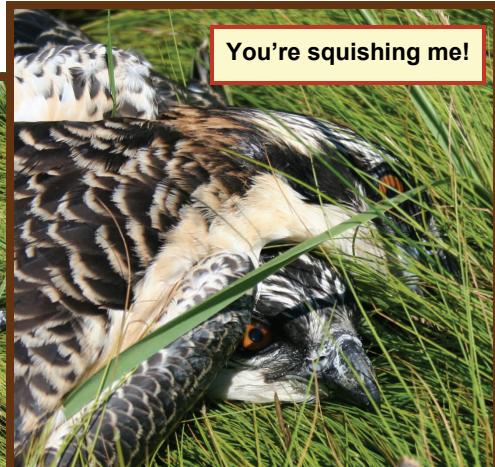


Sibs are reunited

Three Osprey chick playing dead on the ground



There are three chicks in the picture, one is laying on the other



You're squishing me!



The three chicks back in the nest

The following week Fred went out to count and band the chicks in the nests he had yet to survey. He also rechecked several nests that had already been surveyed. He wanted to check on storm damage. He found one nesting platform on the ground. The pole holding up the platform had snapped. On the ground were three chicks that Fred had already banded. Two of the three chicks were dead. He had to leave the remaining live chick on the ground since the nesting platform was destroyed. When he returned with a new platform, he found that that chick had also died. It was a tough year for Osprey chicks on the Great Egg and Tuckahoe Rivers. The good news is that statewide the Osprey population is thriving.

GEHRC/GEHWA
Osprey Monitoring/Banding Project
2012 Report

Year		2011	2012	Other Information
Total Platforms Monitored		38	39	
# of Nests		20	22	
Osprey Chicks Counted		42	34	
Osprey Chicks Banded		25	26	3 chicks banded in 2012 were killed in 6-30-2012 storm
Estimated Number of Chicks Killed from 6/30/2012 Storm			11	This number is probably higher



One of Three 55 Gallon Rain Barrels Capturing Runoff from the Roof of My House

The Water Stored in the Rain Barrel isn't Just for the Garden

I seem to live in an area where losing electricity is an annual occurrence. Since we have moved to our home in Cumberland County, we have lost electricity at least once a year. At times briefly, only a few hours, and at other times for days. The past three summers have seen us losing power for days. Two years ago we installed three 55 gallon rain barrels. Normally I use the water in the barrels to water my gardens. But when we lost power last year during Hurricane Irene, I used the water from my barrels to flush the toilet and for basin baths. I always keep a supply of about 12 - 1 gallon containers (I use used milk containers) of water stored on my basement steps (for when the power goes out). I refresh the water in the containers every now and then. During Hurricane Irene, I had five people in my house. My Mom and Dad had to evacuate from Cape May County. So I reserved the bottled water for drinking and cooking (on the gas grill) and used the water from my rain barrels for all other uses. Following the aftermath of the derecho, we were without power for 3 days. So, not only are rain barrels a great way to capture stormwater runoff from

the roof of your house to be used later in the garden, they are also a great source of water when the power goes out and you need water to flush the toilet. I guess I forgot to mention that I have well water and so when the power goes out, so does my source of water.

Contact Information

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: lynnmaun@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

Calendar of GEHWA and GEHRC Meetings 2012

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 - See Special Notice Below

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 29 & 30, 2012 - See Special Notice Below

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2012 - GEHWA Members Meeting

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

SPECIAL NOTICE - GEHWA's annual canoe/kayak event is undergoing a change. It will not be held on the fourth Tuesday in September. Instead an overnight camping/canoe/kayaking event is planned for Saturday and Sunday September 29 & 30. 2012.

To report an environmental incident impacting NJ, call the Toll-Free 24—Hour Hotline **1-877WARNDEP / 1-877-927-6337**

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 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 lynnmaun@comcast.net.

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



Back in the Nest with Attitude

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