



River Currents



Summer 2013

www.gehwa.org

Issue 62

**Please Plan on Attending
GEHWA's Fall Adventure 2013
Two Days of Boating on the
Great Egg Harbor River and
One Night Camping at Camp Acagisca
Saturday and Sunday
September 28 & 29, 2013**



Once again GEHWA is planning an exciting new event. We tried to facilitate this event last year, but unfortunately damage to Camp Acagisca kept the park closed. We are happy to report that the park is open and we will be hosting our event on September 28 & 29, 2013 at Camp Acagisca in Mays Landing. Our "Fall Adventure" 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 (\$10.00)** and **breakfast (\$5.00)** will be provided for a total cost of **\$15.00** per person. Even if you do not plan on spending the night, please join us for meals. **BYO** lunch and snacks while boating on 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 lei-



surely 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. 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 ...continued on page 2



...continued from page 1 paddle begins each day, from where you parked your vehicle, will be provided during the event.

Please let us know if you plan on attending this **EXCITING NEW** event. We will need a head count since we need to buy food. If you have any questions and/or you plan on participating please call Lynn Maun @856-453-0416 or email @lynnkmaun@comcast.net



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



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



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

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 lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

REMEMBER our environmentally focused programs are FREE!

As the Picnickers Gathered Sunny Skies Prevailed



Enjoying a good meal.

Once again the picnickers gathered at Lake Lenape Park to participate in the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association's 8th Annual Picnic and Campfire. The forecast was for thunderstorms early in the day, with clearing towards evening, just in time for our event. But just in case those rain clouds reappeared, Fred and Lynn erected the E-Z UP canopy, so that the food would stay dry this year

When it was time to light up the grill, the pesky device would not ignite. Something was



Problems with the grill

blocking the flow of gas. At one point four of the guys were working on the grill. Nothing worked. Just when we thought we would have to make do without our hamburgers and hotdogs, Fred, ever the Boy Scout, produced some nifty

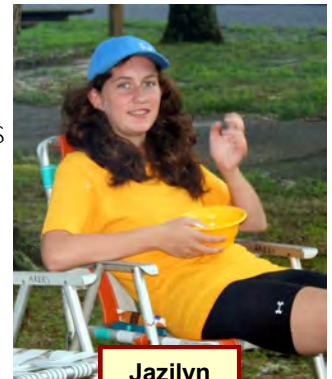


Mark Demitroff on left in a yellow shirt and Elmer Ripley next to him wearing a white plaid shirt

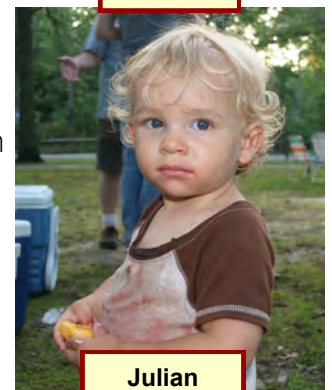
gadgets we could use to cook over the open flame of the campfire. They were the best tasting

hamburgers and hotdogs we had ever cooked and we enjoyed them along with all of the side dishes that everyone brought to share. Elmer Ripley, a GEHWA Trustee, and one of its oldest members attended our picnic. He always has some interesting facts to share about the river and surrounding communities. Pair him up with Mark Demitroff and their stories are sure to capture the interest of anyone close enough to hear.

Two of our youngest members, Jazilyn and Julian also attended. Julian had a great time exploring the park and enjoying the food. Jazilyn, who has been attending the picnic for many years, hung out with the adults. Sorry Jazilyn for not bring the supplies for you to make Smores.



Jazilyn



Julian



Lacewing larvae wearing its lichen camouflage

The interesting critter in the picture to the left was found crawling across a picnic table. It resembled a moving piece of lichen, and was in fact, a moving piece of lichen. After doing some research, it was discovered that during the larval stage lacewings will

use lichens as camouflage. As the lacewing larva move around on the trunk of a tree their lichen covered bodies makes them almost invisible to foraging birds and other predators. ...continued on page 4

...continued from page 3 It is always great to gather and share stories and good food with the friends and family of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. Thanks again for making our Annual Picnic and Campfire a success. Your continued support helps to sustain our organization in its mission to protect the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed.

Thank You



There were many Tiger Swallowtail butterflies flying around the park during our picnic



From the River Administrator's Desk

A Bit of Osprey History

The Great Egg Harbor River and Bay got their names from Dutch explorers in the 1600s due to the prolific number of nesting birds in the area. The growth of European colonization of the area surrounding the river and bay also marks the beginning of the decline for the nesting birds using those same areas. Historic records on one nesting bird, the Osprey, date back to the 1800s.



What a catch

The Osprey, a piscivorous species, is a species that relies on bodies of water that support abundant fish populations. Osprey migrate to NJ in the spring to mate and raise their young. Being able to nest in close proximity to a body of water with an abundant food supply is **critical for the survival of the Osprey's young.** Currently, in NJ the Osprey is a threatened species. But in the early 1800s the Osprey was an abundant breeding bird along the coast. In 1884 Seven Mile Beach (AKA Avalon and Stone Harbor) was home to 100 nesting pairs of Osprey. By 1890 only 25 nesting pairs were found. Similar findings were documented throughout the state. The number of nesting Osprey pairs in the state continued to decline into the 1900s. There were many reasons for the decline: habitat loss (human settlements along the coast), loss of nesting trees, egg gathering and hunting.

In 1946 the pesticide DDT was first used on the Cape May County marshes to combat the mosquito. It was used extensively until 1964. The population of nesting Osprey, already on the decline, plummeted from the widespread use of DDT. **Statewide, prior to the 1950's, 500 nesting pairs of Osprey** had been documented. By 1950 253 pairs were documented along the Atlantic Coast, and by 1975 there were only 53 pairs left. Statewide there were 68 pairs. NJ banned the use of DDT in 1968, four years before it was banned federally. **In 1974 the Osprey was one of the first species placed on NJ's endangered species list.** ...continued on page 5

...continued from page 4 Listing the Osprey as an endangered species gave it special protection. Through special programs the Osprey reversed its downward spiral and began to slowly recovery. State-wide in 1975 there were 75 nesting pairs (NP) of Osprey. By 1981 their numbers had increased to 87 NP. When their numbers reached 200 NP in 1985, the State of NJ changed their status from State Endangered to State Threatened. In 2001 340 NP of Osprey were counted, 486 in 2009 and after a statewide survey in 2013, that there will be over 500 NP. If so, the Osprey will have reached the historic numbers documented prior to 1950.



Osprey chick guarding its nest

The Great Egg Harbor River Council began its Osprey Colony Monitoring and Banding Program in 2009. The table below shows that in 2013 a record number of Osprey chicks (51) hatched on the Great



Osprey chick doesn't like having a camera in its face

Egg. Many of the nests had 3 chicks, one even had 4. In every year except 2012 the number of chicks counted on the Great Egg has increased. Last year was an exception due to the extreme weather conditions experienced in the region. The June 2012 derecho was responsible for the deaths of many of that year's chicks. In addition to counting and banding the chicks the River Council also builds, installs and repairs Osprey platforms. The River Council can be proud of all that it does to protect this bird.

River Council Osprey Colony Project Data Summary

Year	Total Platforms	Active Nests	Chicks Hatched	Chicks Banded	Chicks/Nest
2009	38	19	28	10	1.47
2012	39	16	38	26	2.38
2011	41	20	42	25	2.10
2012	39	22	33	26	1.50
2013	41	21	51	37	2.40

Exploring the World of Honeybees

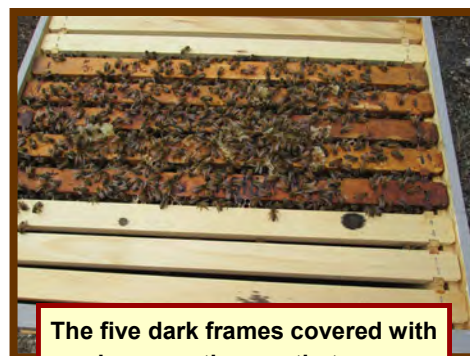
Part 2 in a 4 Part Series

By Lynn Maun



The Maun's new hive with a few bees gathered on the exterior

Julie Akers, and John & Lynn Maun each got their own nuc or nucleus (a miniature version of a regular beehive containing bees, brood, honey and pollen) and installed them into their beehives on April 15, 2013. Julie painted her hive while John & Lynn used boiled linseed oil as a preservative to protect the wood. We were excited to finally have our bees, while at the same time somewhat apprehensive about handling the bees for the first time. After donning our netted headgear, and with a temperamental smoker in hand, we began the



The five dark frames covered with bees are the nuc that was installed into the new hive

task of transferring the five frames of bees from the cardboard nuc box to their brand new beehive.



Nurse bee tending an uncapped larvae

After a couple of weeks our mentors, Ned and Doris Morton, visited our apiaries to see how we and our bees were doing. As Ned helped with the inspection of the Maun's hive he quickly



Julie examines a frame of bees from her hive while her mentor, Doris Morton looks on

determined that the bees were overcrowded, and we needed to place another super (the box that holds the frames) onto the hive. We also moved a couple of frames containing brood from the bottom super to the upper super. This was done to prevent (we hoped) the bees from swarming. Doris, Julie's mentor, helped Julie identify the different types of brood found in her hive and advised her not to add an additional super. Julie's hive was not overcrowded, though it did have a lot of capped brood.



Oak tree with bee swarm

Adding another super and shifting some frames around did not prevent the Maun's hive from swarming. After only one month the bees swarmed from their new hive. A swarm consists of a group of worker bees and a queen that leave the hive to start a new colony. Thousands of bees, roughly half of the hive, will leave in the swarm. It was an awesome sight watching as the bees poured out of the hive and, in a cloud, rose up towards the sky. After about 5 or 10 minutes the bees landed on a branch of our oak tree which unfortunately was about 40 feet off the ground, and left no opportunity for capturing the swarm to put it in our second hive. ..continued on page 7

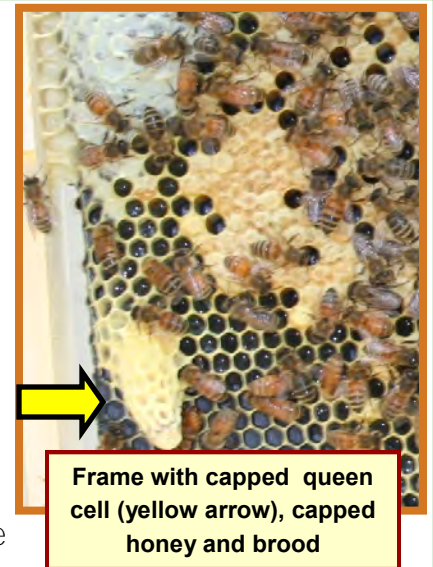
...continued from page 6 After a few days, we opened our hive and found about 20 capped queen cells. We figured our bees started planning their departure not too long after they arrived in their new home. Fortunately for Julie her hive did not swarm.

When we placed the bees into their new hive in April we had to feed our bees a syrupy sugar water mixture since they did not have an adequate



supply of honey stored in the frames of the nuc. Feeding the bees sugar

water helped them produce the wax which was needed to start drawling out (building) new comb on the empty frames in their new hive. This was essential for the growth of the hive. New comb provides the queen with space to lay her eggs and the workers a place to store honey and pollen.



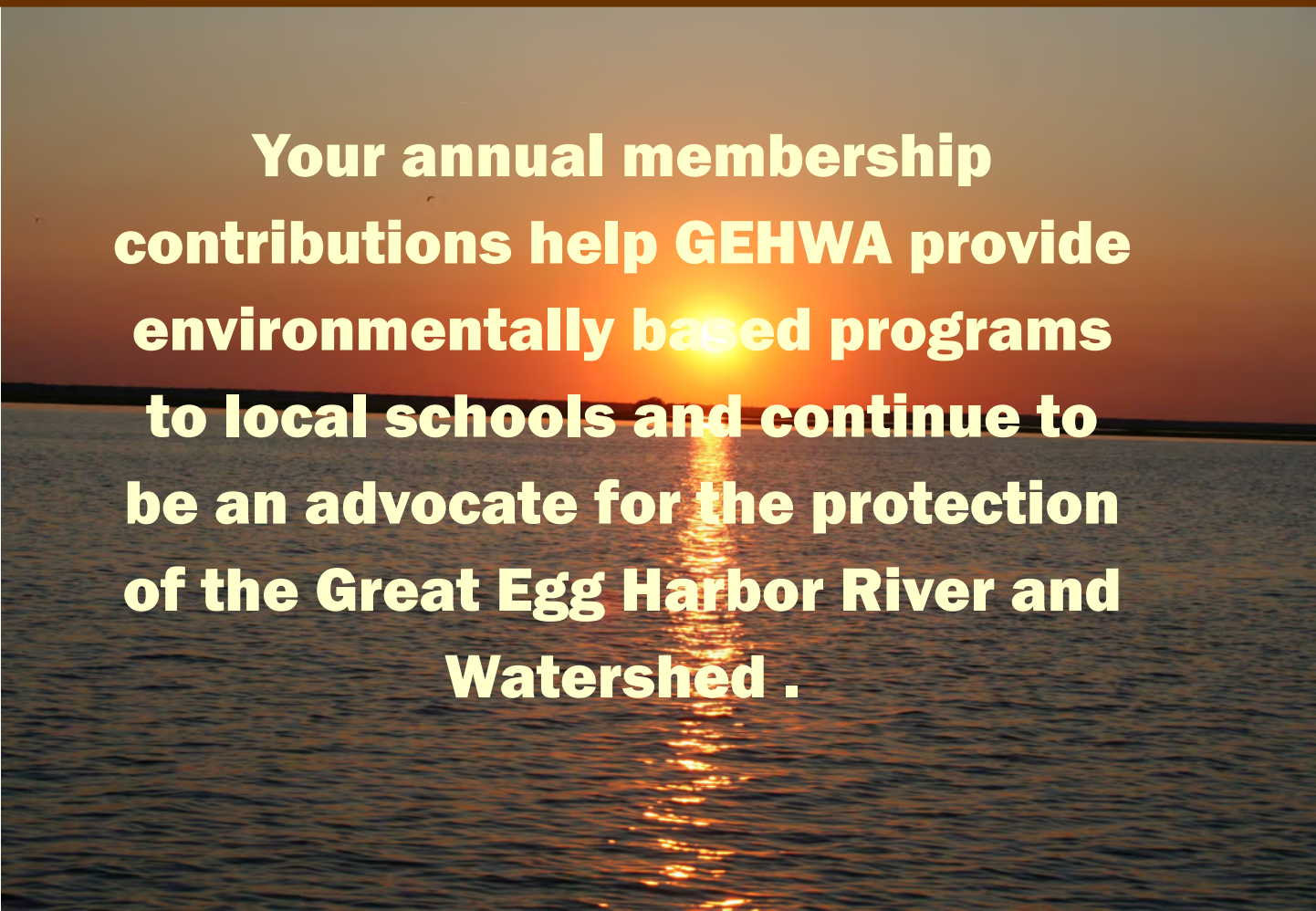
The two maps show different habitats from which our bees need to forage for nectar and pollen. The map above, **where the Maun's hive is located, is** surrounded by farms, woods, wet-

lands and residential properties. Their bees can forage for food from a variety of different habitats less than a mile from their hive. The map to the **right is where Julie's hive is located.**

It is surrounded by forest and scattered residential properties. The nearest farm field is almost 3 miles away. **Since Julie and the Maun's hives are located in diverse habitats it's possible that they will observe**

different rates of growth. The Maun's hive had an explosion of growth, which possible resulted in the bees feeling overcrowded and causing them to swarm; whereas Julie's bees, because of her location in the Pinelands and the delay in flowering of the locale vegetation, had a slower pace of growth. Future articles will tell how the two hives fair during the summer months.



A photograph of a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its reflection shimmering on the water's surface. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

**Your annual membership
contributions help GEHWA provide
environmentally based programs
to local schools and continue to
be an advocate for the protection
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 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

Great News—New Chapters of The Native Plant Society of New Jersey have begun in South Jersey
Information about the Southeast and Delaware Bayshore Chapters is below:

Southeast Chapter - Atlantic and Cape May Counties will hold meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month (Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb., March, April, May, and June). The meetings will begin at 7:00 PM and are being held at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in room L-115. Please plan to arrive early. If you would like to be updated with details about the meetings, contact Jesse Connor @ southeast@npsnj.org.

Directions: Room L-115 is located in Stockton's Art Gallery and Performing Arts Theatre, located in L-wing behind the Campus Center. You can park in front of the Campus Center and either walk through that building or go around it on the left to L-wing.

Delaware Bayshore Chapter - Cumberland and Salem Counties will hold its meeting's on the second Thursday of the month beginning on October 10th, at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held at the American Littoral Society Bayshore Office, 135 N. High Street, Millville NJ, 08332. Please contact Renee Brecht at 856-825-2174 if you have questions.

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: 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

Calendar of GEHWA and GEHRC Meetings 2013

**Saturday and Sunday, 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**

If you should see debris or shoaling
while traversing on New Jersey waters
please call:

1-877- WARNDP (1-877-927-6337)

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



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