



RiverCurrents



Winter 2012

www.gehwa.org

Issue 57



Carol Archer (Second from Right) presenting the award to Pam Brighton (Center)

2011 Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award Commemorating GEHWA's First Coordinator: On April 26th, at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park, The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc., recipient of the 5th Annual Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award, was recognized for its dedication and service as a non-extermination refuge. Pam Brighton, co-founder, president and chairman of the board, of the sanctuary accepted the award. The goal of the Belinda Irizarry Memorial Fund is to recognize individuals and/or groups that personify the work Belinda accomplished in life as she endeavored to protect both the environment and wildlife.

The Oasis Animal Sanctuary is a refuge for orphaned and abused companion and farm animals. Its adoption program offers animals that are vetted, up to date on age-appropriate shots, socialized, de-wormed, and sterilized. Currently the Sanctuary leases pasture for its farm animals. Future plans include the goal of purchasing a small farm. Because of the financial difficulties many families are currently facing, the number of animals surrendered to Oasis has increased. Oasis relies on foster homes to care for the animals until permanent, loving homes are available.

Number of Animals Helped by the Sanctuary in 2011

Animals surrendered to the Sanctuary: 18 cats, 6 dogs, 1 bird, 1 ferrets, 1 horse, 1 mini-horse and 1 turtle

Animals placed/adopted: 14, 1 returned to original caregiver

Total Number of Animals Helped Since 2001

Animals surrendered to Oasis: 454

Animals sterilized thru the Sterilization Assistance Program: 4,545

History of the Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.

During the winter of 2000, "barn buddies" Pam Brighton and Phyllis Van De Weghe discussed their ideas for improving the lives of animals who endured unspeakable cruelty and realized that each had creative approaches to this mutually desired goal. They also discovered that they

Mission of the Oasis Animal Sanctuary

To relieve the suffering of abandoned stray, neglected and abused companion and farm animals in South Jersey

Goals

- To make spay/neuter procedures more affordable for local pet guardians.
- To create community-based public education programs on animal care, the homeless pet crisis, the importance of spaying/neutering and other related topics.
- To provide refuge and rehabilitation for abused horses and farm animals confiscated by local animal welfare agencies.
- To maintain a long-term, loving home for qualified animals too old or injured for adoption.

had creative approaches to this mutually desired goal. They also discovered that they **continued on page 2**

Continued from page 1 - each had different educational backgrounds and possessed unique strengths and talents that, if combined, would form a synergistic relationship that could produce an effect greater than the sum of either individual's efforts. With the addition of Pam's friend and former college instructor Dr. Harriet Doolittle, to the group, The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc. was born on June 19, 2001.

With the help of generous contributions GEHWA has been able to award \$500.00 annually over the past five years to organizations, we are sure , Belinda would have approved.

To Support the Belinda Irizarry Memorial Fund please send contributions to: GEHWA, PO Box 109, Newtonville, NJ 08345-0109

Oasis Sterilization Assistance Program for Cats and Dogs

(Please pass this information along to someone you know needing assistance)

Are You Eligible?

- Are you a New Jersey Resident?
- Are you 18 years of age or older?
- Is your taxable income \$40,000 or less? (this is NOT your GROSS income or your wages)

If yes, all you have to do is:

- Complete the application found online at <http://www.oasisanimalsanctuary.org/spay.asp>.
- Attach a copy of your most recently filed federal income tax return (Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, Telefile Tax Record, or page 2 of Form1040)
- Determine the correct fee and write a check to "The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc."
- Mail your application, check and copy of your federal income tax form to:

**The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.
P.O. Box 3
Williamstown, NJ 08094**

**Please call the Sanctuary with questions at
856-262-1222.**

In 2009 the Humane Society of the United States estimated that animal shelters cared for 6-8 million dogs and cats. Approximately 3-4 million were euthanized.

http://www.humanesociety.org/animal_community/resources/qa/common_questions_on_shelters.html

To support the Oasis Animal Sanctuary use this form or go online to the website:

<http://www.oasisanimalsanctuary.org/index.asp>

Send your tax deductible donation to:

The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.

P.O. Box 3

Williamstown, NJ 08094

\$15__ \$25__ \$50__ other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

We also accept Visa and Master Card

Account# _____

exp date _____

Signature: _____

**Please use my email address
for sending me future newsletters:**

Email address (please print): _____

Please reprint your email address: _____

Oasis Animal Sanctuary Contact Information

By Mail: Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc
P.O. Box 3

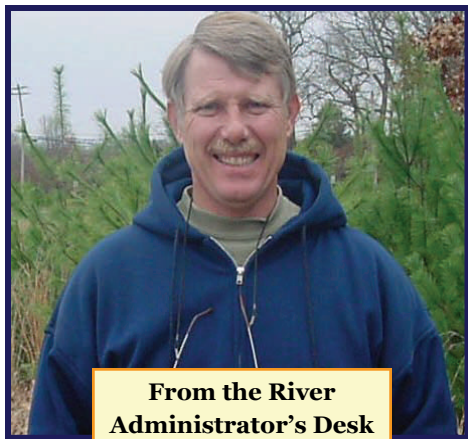
Williamstown, NJ 08094-0003

By Email: info@oasisanimalsanctuary.org

By Phone: 856-262-1222

By Fax: 856-740-0156

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 lynnkmaun@comcast.net.



**From the River
Administrator's Desk**

Protect Small Fish to Protect Big Fish

What do big fish eat when we run out of little fish?

If the ocean food chain collapses, will anyone notice? If commercial and recreational fishing had nothing left to catch, what would happen next? As both a recreational fisherman and an environmentalist, I certainly do not want to find out.

However, the fishing pressure by extreme commercial and industrial overfishing on the small fish at the bottom of the food chain is beginning to make me wonder. They are called forage fish, and larger predators depend on them for food. Today's science says that these small fish - like river herring, Atlantic herring, shad, Atlantic menhaden and other keystone forage fish at the bottom of the food chain - are disappearing, while at the same time marine fisheries managers seem

very slow to react to new commercial fishing methods that are literally vacuum cleaning the ocean of these important fish species.

For example, river-herring fisheries along the entire Atlantic coast have collapsed dramatically in the last decade. Back in 2006, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration listed the river herring as a "species of concern," and this year, the National Resources Defense Council has petitioned NOAA to list the river herring as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Last year, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission completed a stock assessment and determined that the menhaden population is at record low levels, and that overfishing of the Atlantic menhaden has occurred 32 of the last 54 years.

With only a few exceptions, almost all East Coast states, including New Jersey, have either already banned or are planning to ban by January 2012 all commercial and recreational river herring fishing in state waters to help conservation efforts. But meanwhile, the commercial ocean catch and bycatch by midwater trawlers in the Atlantic herring, squid, mackerel, and butter fish fisheries, as well as the menhaden fishery, continue to dramatically reduce our coastal forage-fish populations.

The overfishing of our forage fish is nothing new, as many of these fish populations have individually crashed and been somewhat rebuilt in the past. Unfortunately, more overfishing continues to occur today, and there is good reason to be concerned about the negative impacts that might occur if forage-fish populations were to all crash at the same time.

Removal of the forage fish disrupts the natural balance and sustainability of the ecosystem. Rebuilt fish stocks like striped bass, struggling fish stocks like weakfish, recovered birds like osprey and eagles, and future commercial and recreational fishing profits are all at risk.

So right now is an important time for New Jersey's representatives on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to get busy voting on stronger rules and regulations to prevent the simultaneous collapse of our forage-fish populations.

The MAFMC can start by sending a new proposal, called Amendment 14, to address ocean catch of river herring and shad, out for public comment with all options currently being considered intact. And the ASMFC can start by establishing a coastwide cap on the menhaden fishery with monitoring and enforcement, and move quickly to manage this species based on its role in the ecosystem. Marine fisheries managers must use all the tools available like catch and bycatch limits, trip limits, season and area closures, fishing gear restrictions and sound science to rebuild fish stocks.

We need to manage all our forage-fish species to become as abundant as they once were—for tomorrow and forever.



**From Top to Bottom: Three Forage Fish in
Jeopardy—Alewife, Atlantic Menhaden,
Blueback Herring**

Description: The **Atlantic menhaden** (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) is a silvery, highly compressed fish in the herring family, Clupeidae. A filter feeder, it lives on plankton caught in midwater. Adult fish can filter up to four gallons of water a minute; and they play an important role in clarifying ocean water. They are also a natural check to the deadly red tide.

Menhaden have historically been used as a fertilizer for crops. It is likely that menhaden is the fish that Squanto taught the Pilgrims to bury alongside freshly planted seeds as fertilizer. Other uses for menhaden include: feed for animals, bait for fish, oil for human consumption, oil for manufacturing purposes and oil as a fuel source.

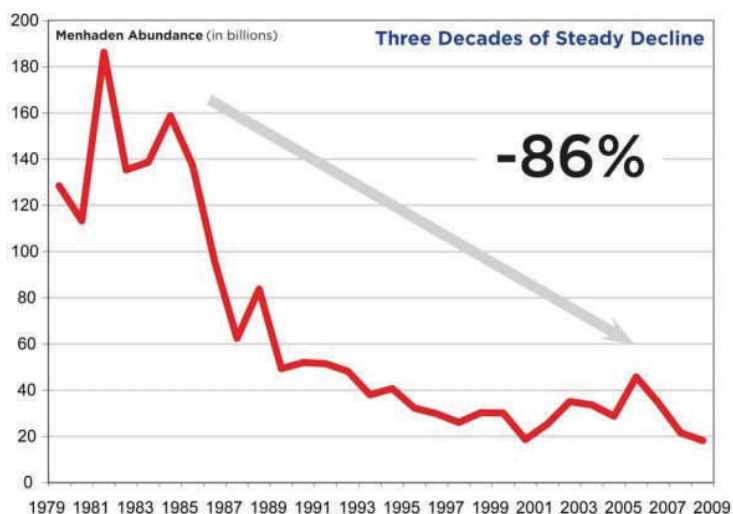
While many articles today state the menhaden as being inedible, the fish were once consumed as sardines or fried in early American history. Maine fisherman, for example, would eat fried pogies for breakfast. The fish that were not sold for bait would be sold to poorer classes for food.

Menhaden historically occurred in large numbers in the North Atlantic, ranging from Nova Scotia, Canada to central Florida, USA, although their presence in northern waters has diminished in the 20th Century. They swim in large schools, some reportedly up to 40 miles (64 km) long. As a result of their abundance they are important prey for a wide range of predators including bluefish, striped bass, cod, haddock, halibut, mackerel, swordfish, and tuna.

Sources: <http://www.enature.com/fieldguides/detail.asp?recnum=FI0096> and <http://savemenhaden.wordpress.com/2010/07/24/menhaden-population-decline-1979-2009/>

Atlantic Coastal Menhaden Abundance Survey

Source: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 2009 Stock Assessment



Please contact Lynn Maun @ lynnk-maun@comcast.net or 856-453-0416 if you would like order an item. When you place your order we can discuss delivery options (mail or pickup).

SALE!!!!

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Tee Shirts, Sweat Shirts and Hats

Sale Prices (Good Until 4/30/2012)

Tee Shirts: Sm, Med, Lg., XLg.....**\$8.00** (Reg. 11.00)
 2XL.....**\$9.00** (Reg. 13.00)
 Sweat Shirts: Lg., and XLg.,.....**\$15.00** (Reg. 20.00)
 2XL.....**\$17.00** (Reg. 25.00)
 Hats.....**\$7.00** (Reg. 10.00)



**Sweat Shirt
Front and Back**



Detail of Logo

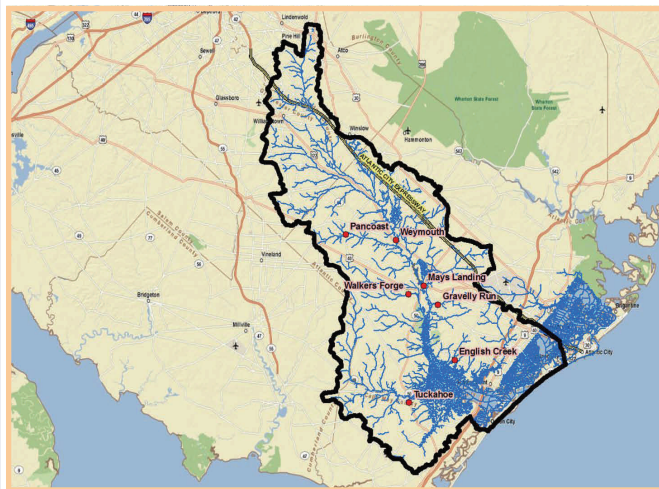
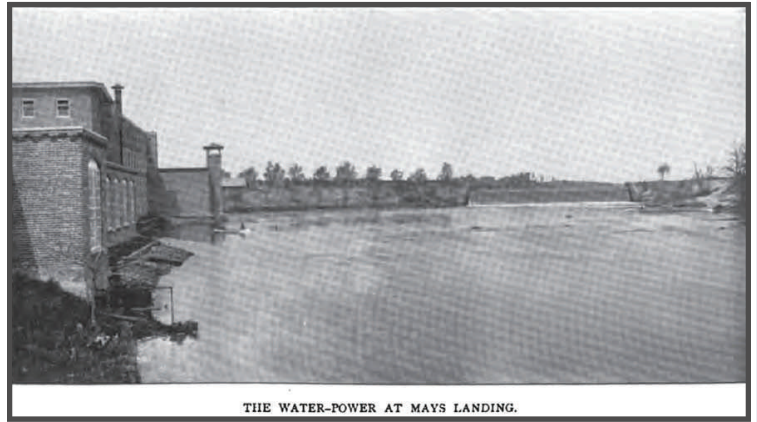


**Tee Shirt Colors
Tan, Blue and Green**

Why were dams built on the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries?

If you are interested in finding out the answer to this question plan on attending the next **GEHWA Members Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at Camp Acagisca in Mays Landing** (Directions below).

River Administrator, Fred Akers will explore how the streams and creeks connected to the Great Egg Harbor River once supplied water power to saw mills, grist mills, cotton mills, carding mills, and elec-

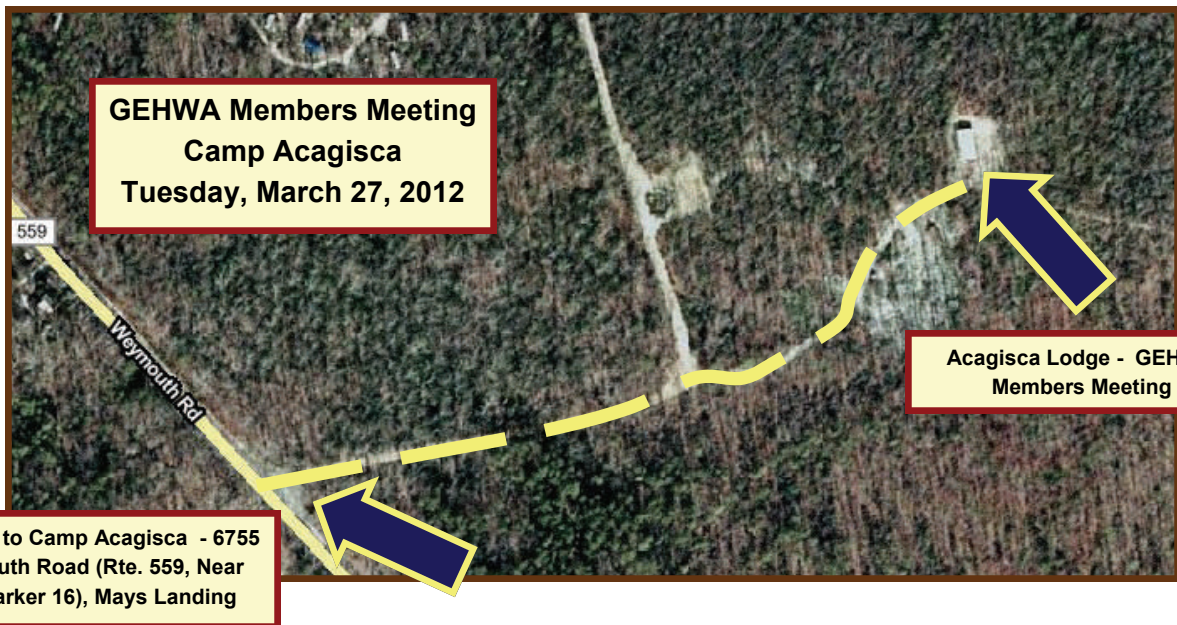


tric power mills. A detailed history of Weymouth Pond and Mays Landing Pond will also be presented through the lens of 1890 US Geological Survey maps and an 1894 Water Supply Report.

If you like journeying into the past, please plan on attending this informative meeting. Please share this meeting notice with friends and family.

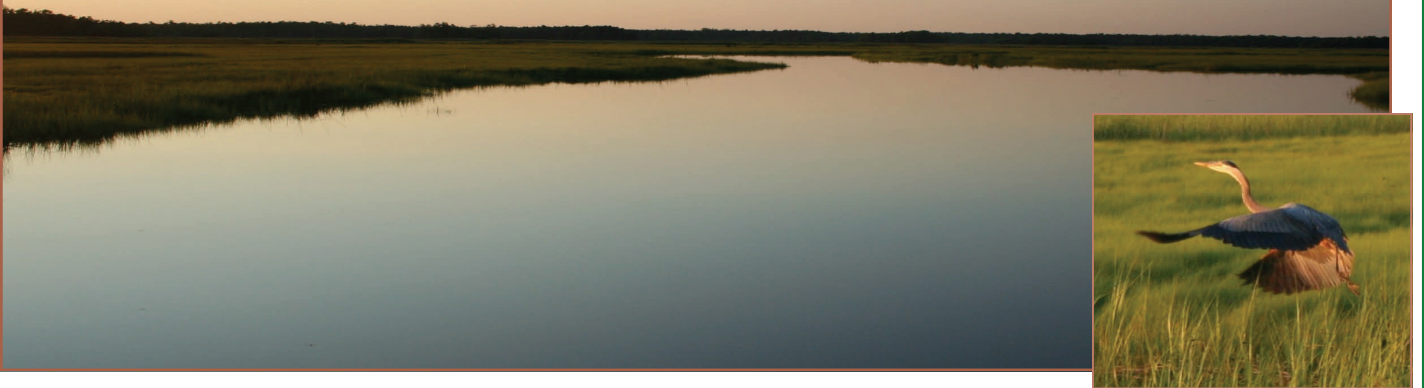
Please note that there is a change in the meeting location. We will be meeting in the lodge at Camp Acagisca, Mays Landing and not the Fox Nature Center. The map below indicates the location of the lodge within the camp-

ground. Any questions please call Lynn Maun at 856-453-0416 or lynnkmaun@comcast.net.



SAVE THE DATE "Clean Up Event" Atlantic County Parks and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association are sponsoring a clean-up event for Cologne Park (Adams Branch) for Saturday, April 21, 2012. Details regarding the clean-up will be sent at a later date. Please mark your calendars and attend.

Help Improve the Water Quality of the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed



Your everyday activities can affect water quality. Help reduce the amount of pollution that flows into our waterways by following the tips below.

- **Conserve water** - Do not over water your lawn. Adjust sprinklers if water runs into the gutter. Water during cooler times of the day.
- **Identify pests before spraying pesticides** - Ask a specialist at your garden center for advice on how to treat for that specific pest. Use integrated pest management (IPM) methods to minimize chemical use in your garden. Many IPM methods do not even require the use of chemical pesticides.
- **Reduce the amount of grass by planting ground cover** - This reduces the need for fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.
- **Use natural pesticides** - Such as milky spore and nematodes wherever possible. If you must use chemical pesticides, use them sparingly and in targeted areas.
- **Have your lawn tested at the county Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office** - To determine if you need to fertilize. If so, use natural and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers and make sure to follow the manufacturer's directions. Never apply to your lawn or garden if the weather calls for rain.
- **Use a mulching mower** - Instead of bagging grass clippings to reduce lawn wastes and to reduce the need for fertilizer. Do not put loose leaves or grass clippings in the street. Use them in a compost pile as a source for enriched soil. If you do need to dispose of leaves or grass clippings, contact your municipality to determine the appropriate method to dispose these wastes.
- **If you must use herbicides** - Apply them directly to the weeds rather than broadcasting if possible. A healthy lawn will reduce weed growth.
- **Use mulch on flower beds and gardens** - To prevent weeds from growing and to help absorb water.
- **Use drought-resistant native plants** - In gardens and beds. These plants require less fertilizer and less water, thereby reducing the amount of potential polluted runoff.

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 2012

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

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 - GEHWA Members Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 - GEHWA Members Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 24, 2012 - GEHWA Members Meeting

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

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 - GEHWA Members Meeting

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

Register Now For 2012 - Pinelands Short Course

The 23rd annual Pinelands Short Course is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2012. This popular event will be held at Burlington County College's Pemberton campus. Details and registration information can be found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/about/events/>.

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

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: _____

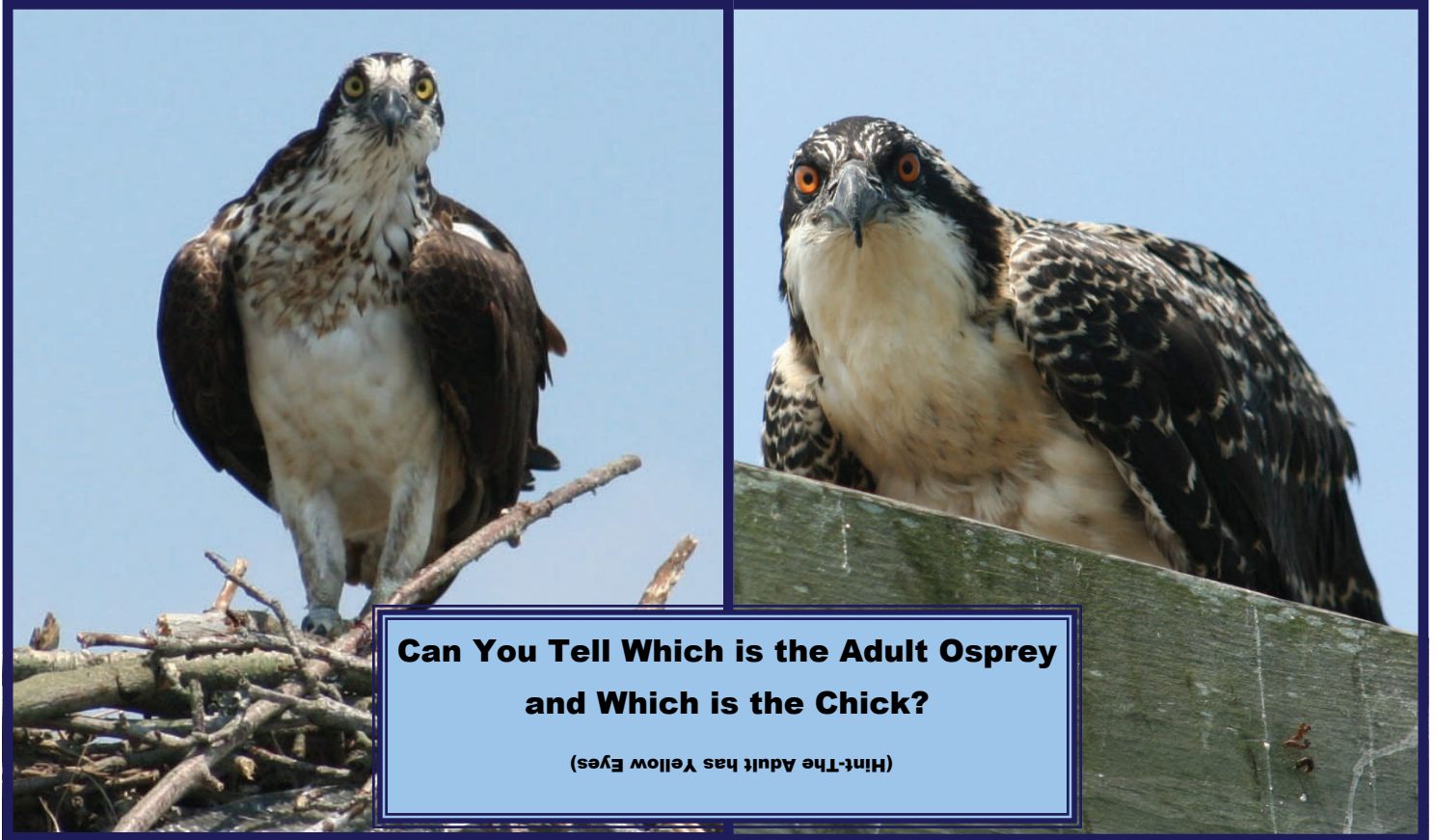
Phone Number: _____

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



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