



Winter 2015

www.gehwa.org

Issue 65



Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Annual Members' Meeting and Program



Alewife/River Herring

**Please Join Us for our
Annual Members' Meeting,
Tuesday March 24, 2015
at 6:30 PM
and enjoy our program
"Fish Tales"**

Please note that the meeting and program begins at 6:30 PM

The meeting will be held at the Warren Fox Nature Center in
Estell Manor Park, Mays Landing

Fish Tales

Families and individuals interested in fishing and the environment are invited to join Fred Akers, "Watershed Fred" to learn about the life histories of migratory fish in Lake Lenape and the Great Egg Harbor River. This presentation will examine life cycles of species such as river shad, white perch, river herring, and the American eel, and their relationship to larger species of fish such as striped bass, and fish-eating birds, including osprey, great blue heron, and the bald eagle.

Call Lynn if you have any questions at 856-649-2792 or email
lynnkmaun@comcast.net
Please plan to attend



**From the River
Administrator's Desk**

The Blueback River Herring Lawsuit

Washington, D.C. – The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Earth Justice, and a coalition of fishing and watershed protection groups including the Great Egg Harbor River Council, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Anglers Conservation Network, and the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association filed a complaint on February 10, 2015 in

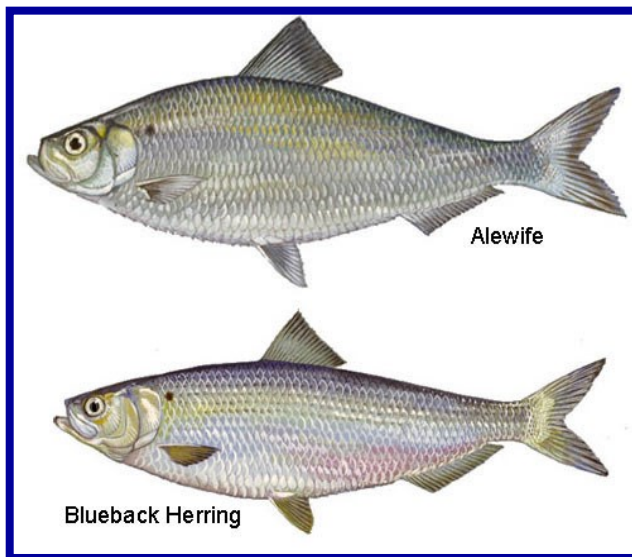
federal court seeking to reverse a decision by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) not to list the blueback herring as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Blueback herring once were highly abundant in many coastal waters, rivers and streams of the eastern United States, from Nova Scotia all the way to Florida. In larger rivers, spawning runs could reach well into the millions of individual fish. The movement of enormous schools of silvery, foot-long herring as they left the Atlantic to swim up rivers and streams was an astonishing annual event. A vital part of healthy watersheds and coastal ecosystems, these schools fed predators hungry after a long winter, including striped bass, ospreys, bald eagles, herons, harbor seals, river otters, and people.

But due primarily to the impacts of dams and habitat destruction, overfishing, and water pollution, blueback herring are now reduced to tiny remnant runs. The commercial fishery has collapsed and a critical food source has gone missing from the ecosystem. The Mid-Atlantic blueback river herring population is particularly imperiled and at risk of extinction.

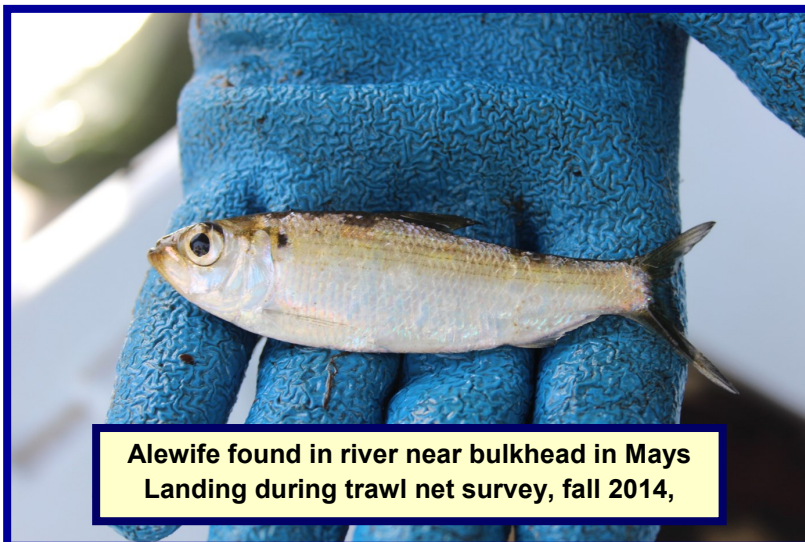
"The historical abundance of river herring in the Great Egg Harbor River system is long gone. The state of New Jersey has outlawed even the possession of one river herring, but they are still allowed to be killed in large numbers as bycatch in federal waters. It is time for the National Marine Fisheries Service to list the blueback herring as a threatened species and start to work to bring them back", said Fred Akers, Administrator of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council.

The groups are asking that U.S District Court in DC find the National Marine Fisheries Service in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and that the court order the federal agency to prepare a new listing determination within six



Alewife

Blueback Herring



**Alewife found in river near bulkhead in Mays
Landing during trawl net survey, fall 2014,**



Atlantic County

Division of Parks and Recreation



Spring is right around the corner! With the warmer weather and flowers blooming soon, what better way to kick-start the season than the annual spring cleanup in the Atlantic County Parks. This program has proved to be successful and a great asset in keeping the Parks green and clean as we enter into the 5th year of the cleanup. To date, roughly 8 miles of roads/trails have been cleaned and approximately 25 cubic yards of trash and 12 cubic yards of recycled material were gathered from various County Park locations. Imagine - that is about 37 washing machines!



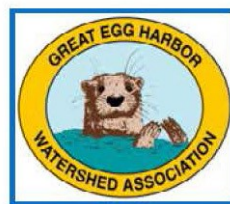
This year's event will take place ***Saturday April 18th*** ***from 8:30 AM until Noon*** (rain date April 25, 2015) and will consist of a 2.5 mile roadside area. The cleanup will begin in the Estell Manor Park starting at South River in the North End portion of the Park down Artesian Well Road and continue south along Route 50 to Stephens Creek ending near the Manor House.

The event is cosponsored by the Great Egg Harbor River Council and Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association in partnership with Atlantic County Parks, Friends of the Parks, Atlantic County Utilities Authority and Atlantic County Parks and Environmental Advisory Board.

The Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor provides an essential habitat for trees and wildlife. The Nature Center is also a key feature to the Park as it is a host site for many public meetings and recreation activities. This cleanup not only spruces up the Park's image for spring and summer visitors, but also will help keep the ecosystem clean for all walks of life.

Volunteers are needed to help out with this effort. Please meet in the Nature Center parking lot at 8:15 AM. The cleanup will be broken into 3 teams at roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ mile intervals. Please dress for the weather. Bring gloves and water. Lunch will be provided after the cleanup.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Fred Akers as soon as possible at fred.akers13@gmail.com or at 609-335-3744, or Adam Witcraft at witcraft_adam@aclink.org or at 609-625-7000 ext. 5424.



SPRING—IT'S ALMOST HERE

By Lynn Maun



Winter is almost over and I am looking forward to getting my hands dirty as I begin to clean up last years leaves and dead plant stalks from my gardens. During this between time, when the last of the snow melts and disappears and the first green shoot sprouts up out of the ground or appears on a branch, can be dreary days for me as a backyard gardener. Everywhere I look I see leaves and plant stalks that have been flattened

by the recent snows. Everything is either brown or gray. The only bright color in my backyard comes from the green leaves on my holly

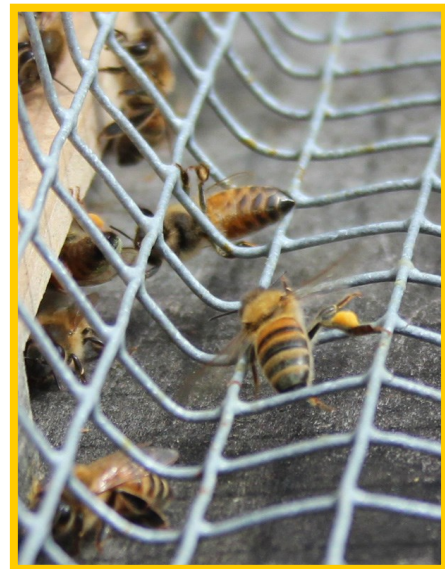


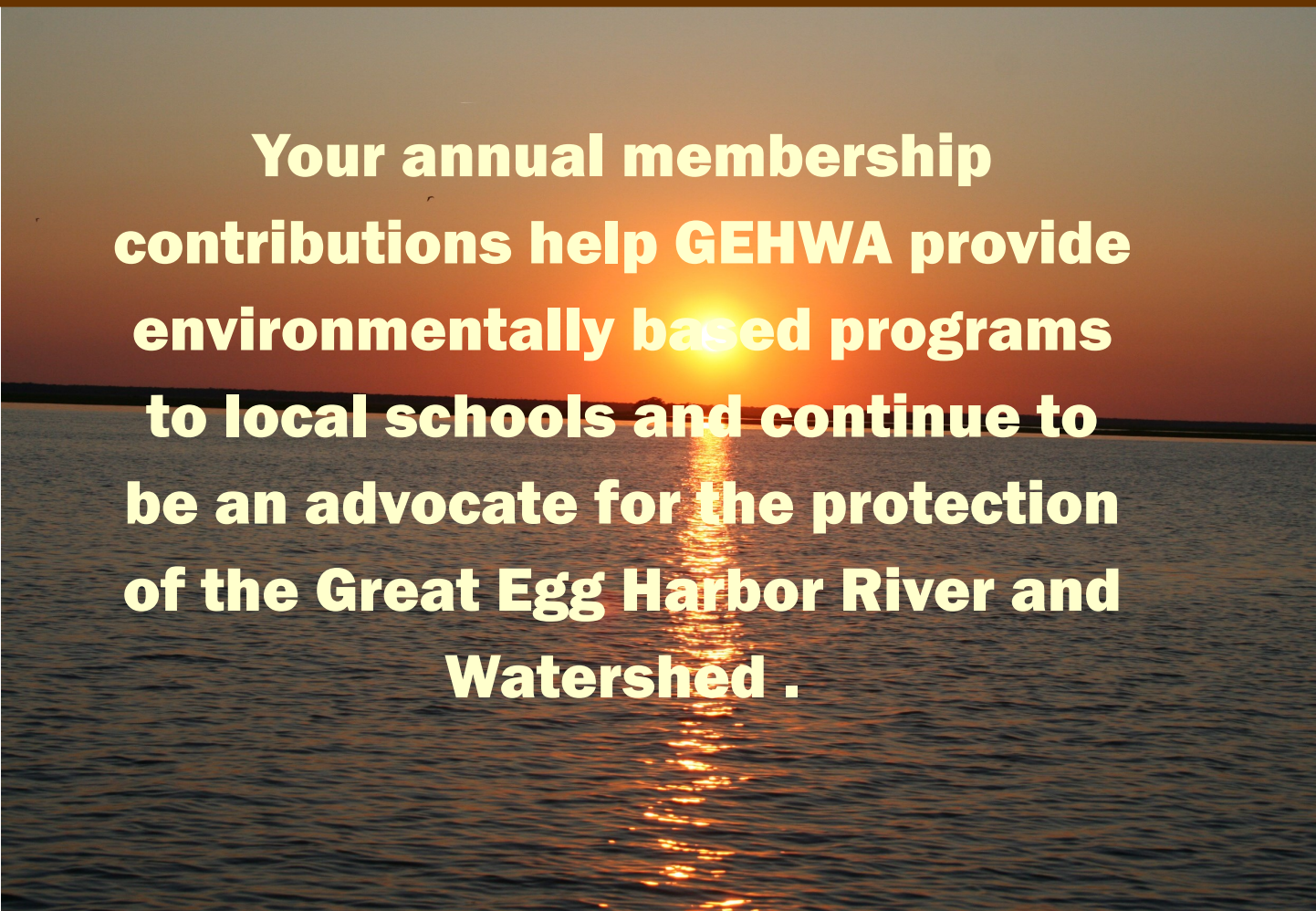
trees. That was until Monday March 9th, when the outside temperature rose into the 50s and my honeybees left their hive in droves. As they returned, I noticed very small amounts of pollen on the rear legs of a few

bees. On Tuesday, March 10th, the rain slowed the bees down and kept them confined to their hive. But on Wednesday, March 11th, when the temperature on my thermometer registered 63 degrees, the bees were



flying and arriving back at the hive with the pollen sacs on their rear legs bulging with pollen. Springtime colors of pale yellow and goldenrod yellow adorned their legs. Ah, finally a taste of spring. So even though the actual first day of spring is still over a week away, for me it arrived on Monday when my bees returned to their hive wearing nature's bounty on their rear legs.





**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

Calendar of GEHWA and GEHRC Meetings

2015

Please make a note of the new meeting time.

*All meetings held at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor
will begin at **6:30 PM.***

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 - GEHWA Member Meeting— Fred Akers presents “The Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River Designation”

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting—Annual Reorganization Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 20145- GEHWA ANNUAL Member Meeting & Program

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting



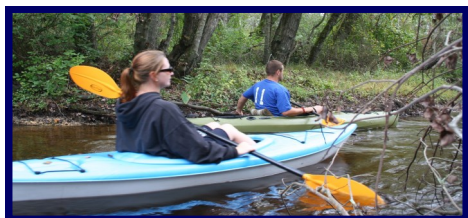
Tuesday, May 26, 2015 - GEHWA Member Meeting—Annual Frog Walk
(Details will be provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, June 17, 2015- Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting



Tuesday, July 28, 2015 - GEHWA Member & Friends Picnic and Campfire (Location and details will be provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, August 19, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting



Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, 2015
GEHWA 2 day Canoe/Kayak event on the Great Egg Harbor River and overnight camping at Camp Acagisca
(Details will be provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2015 - GEHWA Member Meeting— Program to be announced.

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council & Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Trustee Annual Meeting

Please plan on attending these events.

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



St. Vincent DePaul student puppet show

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



Student holding a Dragonfly Nymph

Association's **free** programs. If you would like additional information please contact Lynn Maun, Education Outreach Coordinator at 856-649-2792 or lynnkmaun@comcast.net

REMEMBER our environmentally focused programs are FREE!



Students from Alder Avenue School searching for macroinvertebrates

Contact Information

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association		Atlantic County Department of Planning	
Julie Akers, President (856) 697-6114		(609) 645-5898	
Fred Akers, Administrator (856) 697-6114			
P.O. Box 109, Newtonville, NJ 08346		US Army Corps of Engineers (215) 656-6725	
Email: fred_akers@gehwa.org			
Web Site: www.gehwa.org		NJ DEP Regulatory Office for Atlantic County	
Lynn Maun, Coordinatr (856) 649-2792		(609) 292-8292	
Email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net			
		NJ DEP Enforcement Officer (732) 255-0787	
National Park Service			
Paul Kenney (215) 597-5823; Paul_Kenney@nps.gov		Pinelands Commission	
		(609) 894-7300	
NJ DEP Watershed Management Office			
(609) 777-0580		NJ DEP 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

If you should see debris or shoaling while
traversing on New Jersey waters please call:
1-877- WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337)

Male Hairy Woodpecker



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