



Rivercurrents



Fall 2016

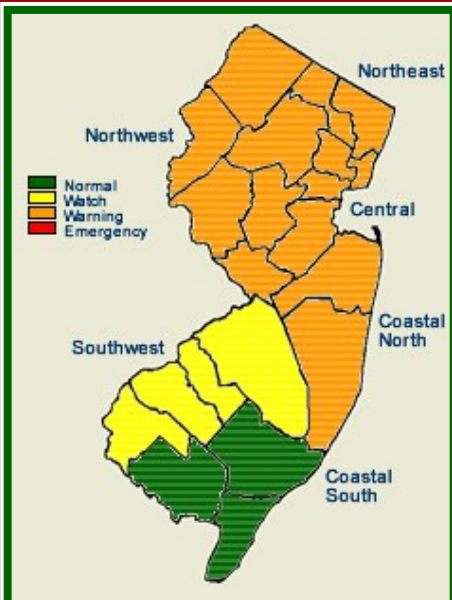
www.gehwa.org

Issue 68



During the 2016 calendar year GEHWA provided environmentally focused programs for **3,234** students. The students participated in both indoor and outdoor classrooms: in schools, the Warren Fox Nature Center, parks and on a boat. We enjoy our role as environmental educators and would like to **THANK** those individuals who have volunteered their

time, and shared their individual expertise, to help us fulfill our mission: Paul Ludgate, Lynn Wood, Walt Vreeland and John Keenan. Looking forward to 2017.



2016 Drought in NJ

What does it Mean?

On October 21, 2016, Bob Martin, Commissioner of the NJDEP, signed Administrative Order No. 2016-10 declaring 14 counties in northern NJ under a drought warning, and 4 counties in southwestern NJ under a drought watch. Only the 3 southern most counties in NJ were not included.

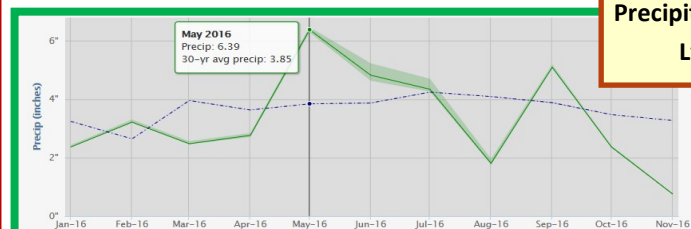
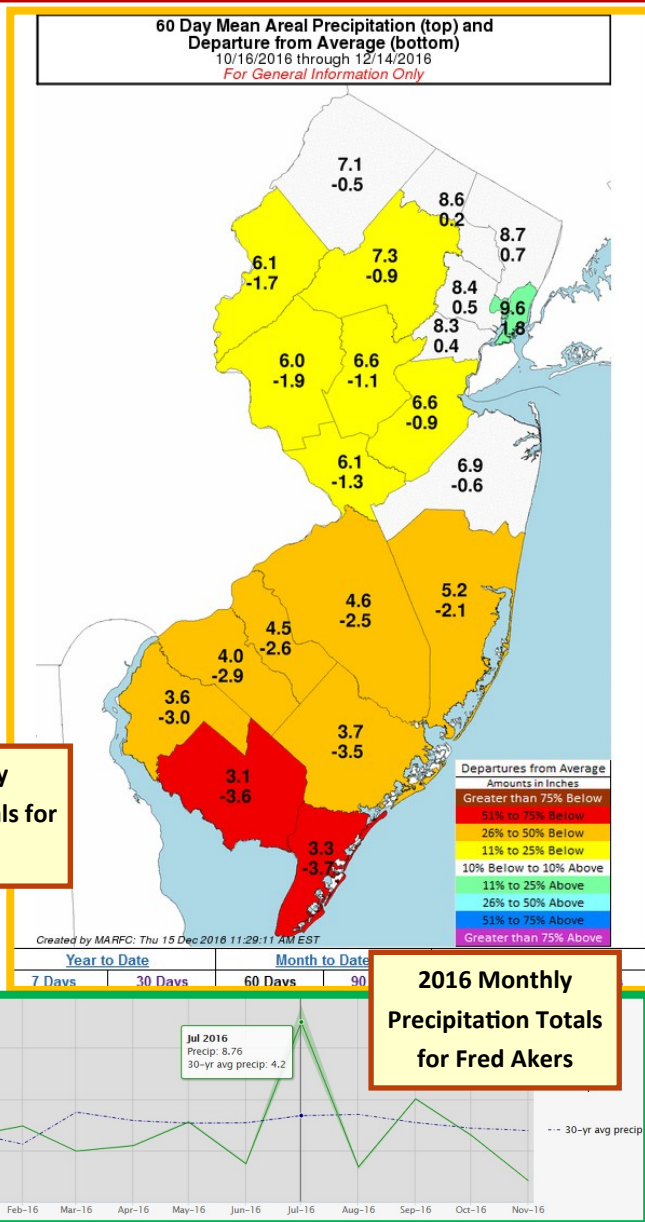
What does this mean for us, the public? If you live in one of the affected counties, it means you should be taking increased water conservation measures in and around ...continued on page 2

Source: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/drought/>

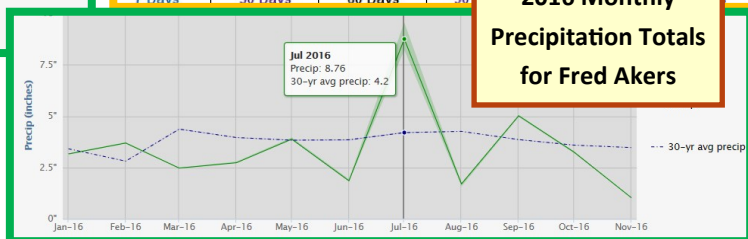
...continued from page 1 your home. If you live in one of the three counties not under either the drought warning or watch, you should also be taking water conservation measures seriously.

Precipitation totals from October 16 to December 14 are below average: Atlantic County -3.5", Cumberland County -3.6", and Cape May County -3.7" and have been several times throughout the year (see Lynn and Fred's graphs below)

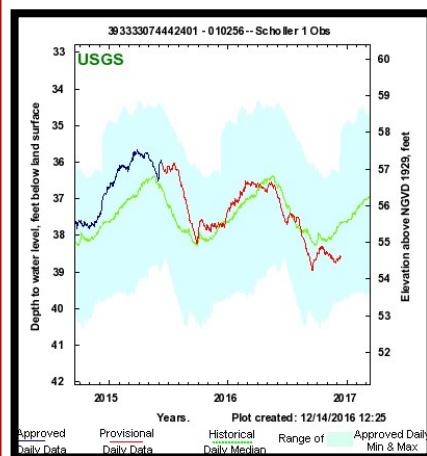
Since 2008, I have participated in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) and have been keeping a record of precipitation that occurs at my location in Cumberland County.



The dashed line is 30 yr. avg. The green line is 2016 precipitation. Below average precipitation has occurred at Lynn's location in Cumberland County 6 of the past 11 months, and at Fred's location in Atlantic County 7 of the past 11 months.



Average precipitation at my location is 43.86". The statewide average is 45-46". To date I have recorded 37.50" of precipitation. Average precipitation at Fred's location in Atlantic County is 45.6". To date he has received 39.69 inches.



In South Jersey, we receive our water from under the ground (groundwater). The Kirkwood Cohansey aquifer supplies our daily water needs. Over the course of the year the depth to groundwater fluctuates with the seasons. What we don't want to see is what is happening with the red line in the graph. The red line is moving away from the "Historical Daily Median" green line in a negative direction. If this trend continues into 2017 we may be facing a drought emergency ...continued on page 3

...continued from page 2 instead of just a watch and warning. Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May counties may fall into any one of those three categories: watch, warning or emergency.

So What Can You Do? Follow these QUICK TIPS to Reduce Water Waste:

- Water lawns (and outdoor plants) less frequently (2-3 times per week) for no more than 30 minutes. This allows the soil to absorb the water and enables roots to grow more deeply, which encourages drought tolerance;
- Never water during the heat of the day, as this promotes evaporation and leads to water waste;
- Sprinkler systems should be set to water after sunset or before dawn, and by law should be equipped with an automated shut-off switch that disables the system following rainfall.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen (available at most home improvement stores and some supermarkets);
- Do not let faucets run when brushing your teeth or washing the dishes;
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full, or select the properly sized wash cycle for the current laundry load;
- Use a broom to sweep the sidewalk, rather than a hose;
- Use mulch and native plants to conserve water in the garden;
- Use a rain barrel to capture water from a downspout to use later for watering gardens and plants;
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation to water trees, gardens and flower beds;

For more detailed information on how you can conserve water in and outside your home, go to <http://www.h2ouse.org/>. This site also includes related product information, environmental benefits and cost estimates, and a water use calculator to figure where you can conserve water in your daily routine.

On October 20, 2016 the New Jersey State Climatologist, David Robinson of Rutgers University, reported that NJ is experiencing a “precipitation shortfall”, where there has been below-normal precipitation. If a drought emergency is declared then the public will be facing mandatory water-use restrictions. The last time a drought emergency was declared in NJ was 2001/2002.

While the public does its part to conserve New Jersey’s vital water supply, the State must also do its part. The “Water Supply Master Plan” is an important tool that helps the State regulate water use. The plan has not been updated since 1996. It is supposed to be updated every 5 years and so, it is now 20 years overdue.

In the coming months, let’s all do our part and cut back on our water use in our homes. Winter is usually a time when NJ’s water supplies are replenished. Hopefully, we will have an abundance of precipitation this winter in the form of rain, snow, sleet or hail.

National Park Service Grant

In 2015 and 2016 National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell, initiated a C2A grant program for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. The Great Egg Harbor River was awarded a \$2,400 grant in 2015 and a \$7,300 grant in 2016. These grants were used to provide floating classrooms for



From the River
Administrator's Desk

students from the Fernwood Avenue Middle School in Egg Harbor Township. Below is a breakdown of what was accomplished.

FY2015: The \$4,800 project was completed. NPS provided \$2,400 for boat rentals and substitute teacher hours, and \$2,400 was matched by \$300 cash from the River Council for 3 bus rentals, and \$2,100 in-kind hours from GEHWA staff and the EHT Fernwood School teacher's time engaging youth in the Park.

Accomplishments:

1. Eighty-six middle school children had their first outdoor park visitor education experience and participated in natural resource conservation on the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River in 3 trips.

2. **FY2016:** The \$14,700 project was completed. NPS provided \$7,300 for boat and bus rentals, and GEHWA staff and the EHT Fernwood School teacher's provided \$7,400 in-kind hours' time engaging youth in the Park.



Accomplishments:

1. Two hundred ninety-nine middle school children had their first outdoor park visitor education experience and participated in natural resource conservation on the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River in 10 trips.

Note: A total of 14 floating classroom events occurred as a result of the two C2A grants.

Additional pictures on page 3





Ribbon Worm



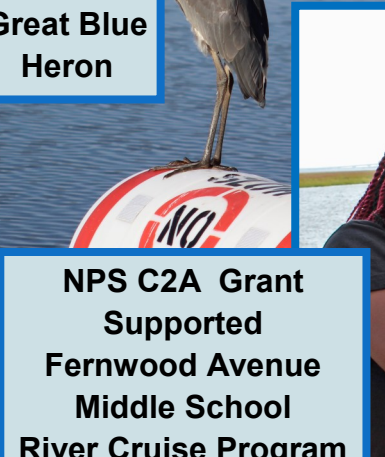
Great Blue Heron



Water Testing



Touching the Catfish



**NPS C2A Grant
Supported
Fernwood Avenue
Middle School
River Cruise Program**



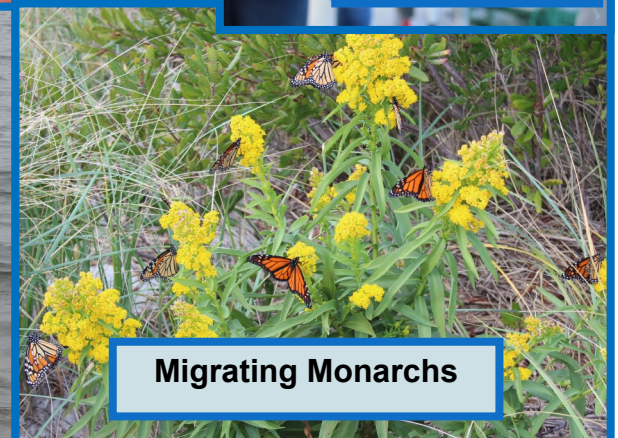
Bluespotted Cornetfish



White Catfish



Seining



Migrating Monarchs



Beach Clean-ups



Expect the Unexpected

By Lynn Maun



On June 3, 2016, as I was leaving my house in Cumberland County, I discovered a large bird lying down in the middle of the lane of a very busy county road (the regional high school is on the same road and it was time for school to start). At first I thought it was a Canada Goose, because that is what I expected to see since there is a lake a short distance from my house that is filled with Canada Geese. But to my surprise it was a Common Loon. Not what I expected given my location.

Earlier in the week, I had been out on the Duke of Fluke in the Great Egg Harbor bay with 7th graders from the Fernwood Avenue school. During that time I had seen several loons floating on the water. I saw the loons where I would expect to see them.

I got out of my car, grabbed a jacket, and slowly approached the bird while frantically waving for the traffic to stop. I quickly scanned the bird for injuries, was a little intimidated by its very large bill, and then threw my jacket over the bird. I knew that if I covered its head the bird would calm down and that would enable me to pick it up and remove it from the middle of the road. As I picked it up, it let out its plaintive and very distinct loon call. You know, that call you would expect to hear if you were near a northern lake? As I carried the loon into my backyard it moved its wings and flapped its feet while wrapped in my jacket. Positive signs that it had not been hit by a car.



When I reached my backyard, I surveyed the area, decided it was best to place the loon out of sight of my backyard pond filled with goldfish (a very tempting meal for the loon), then I gently placed the bird on the ground and removed my jacket. It just sat there looking at me. It didn't try to stand and it never tried to fly. I was somewhat concerned about leaving the bird in my backyard while I ran into the house to let my husband know what was going on, especially with two feral cats lurking about. But, I assumed that the cats were smart enough not to tangle with a bird that has a dagger like bill. So, with that in mind, I ran into the house, told my husband there was a loon in the backyard, and asked him to call Tri-State Bird



Rescue to see what to do. Then I left. I was meeting Fred to go out on the Duke of Fluke with the Fernwood students and I was now running really late.

My husband called Tri-State Bird Rescue and they then directed him to contact Cedar Run Wildlife Rescue. The person he spoke to at Cedar Run asked him some questions: about the bird, any obvious injuries, if there was shiny asphalt in the area and if there was also a nearby lake. After determining that the bird had no visible signs of injury, my husband was told that many times loons mistake wet-shiny asphalt for a lake and land on the asphalt. My neighbor has a very long asphalt driveway. Once the bird lands on such a surface it cannot take off and



is stranded since its legs are placed far back on the body. Making it very hard for the bird to walk. Loons need to take off from water. I can only imagine how hard the landing was for the loon, as it made contact with the solid surface of the driveway instead of the lake. Since the bird did not appear injured, my husband was



told to take it down to the lake. He put the loon into a box, placed a cover over the top and drove down the street to the lake. He approached the edge of the lake with the loon in the box and as soon as he removed the cover, the loon leaped from the box and flapped to the center of the lake. Once again the loon called, and my husband said, "he heard an answering call".

When I returned to the area later in the day, I went down the street to see if the loon was still floating on the lake. It was. I was able to take some pictures as it



cruised up and down the lake. The next day I returned to the lake in search for the loon, but it was gone. Hopefully to continue its journey north.

So, I have learned to expect the unexpected and I would encourage you to do the same.



Flounder Fishing



GEHWA Picnic



Little Skate



Biggest Fish of the Day



Mating Fowlers Toads



Bird Watching



St. Vincent DePaul Puppet Show



Youngest Frog Walker



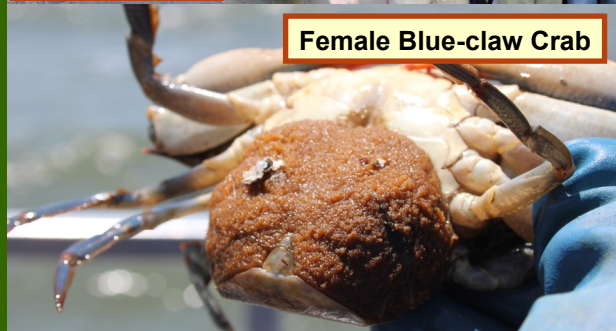
Pickerel Frog



Staffing the Floating Classroom



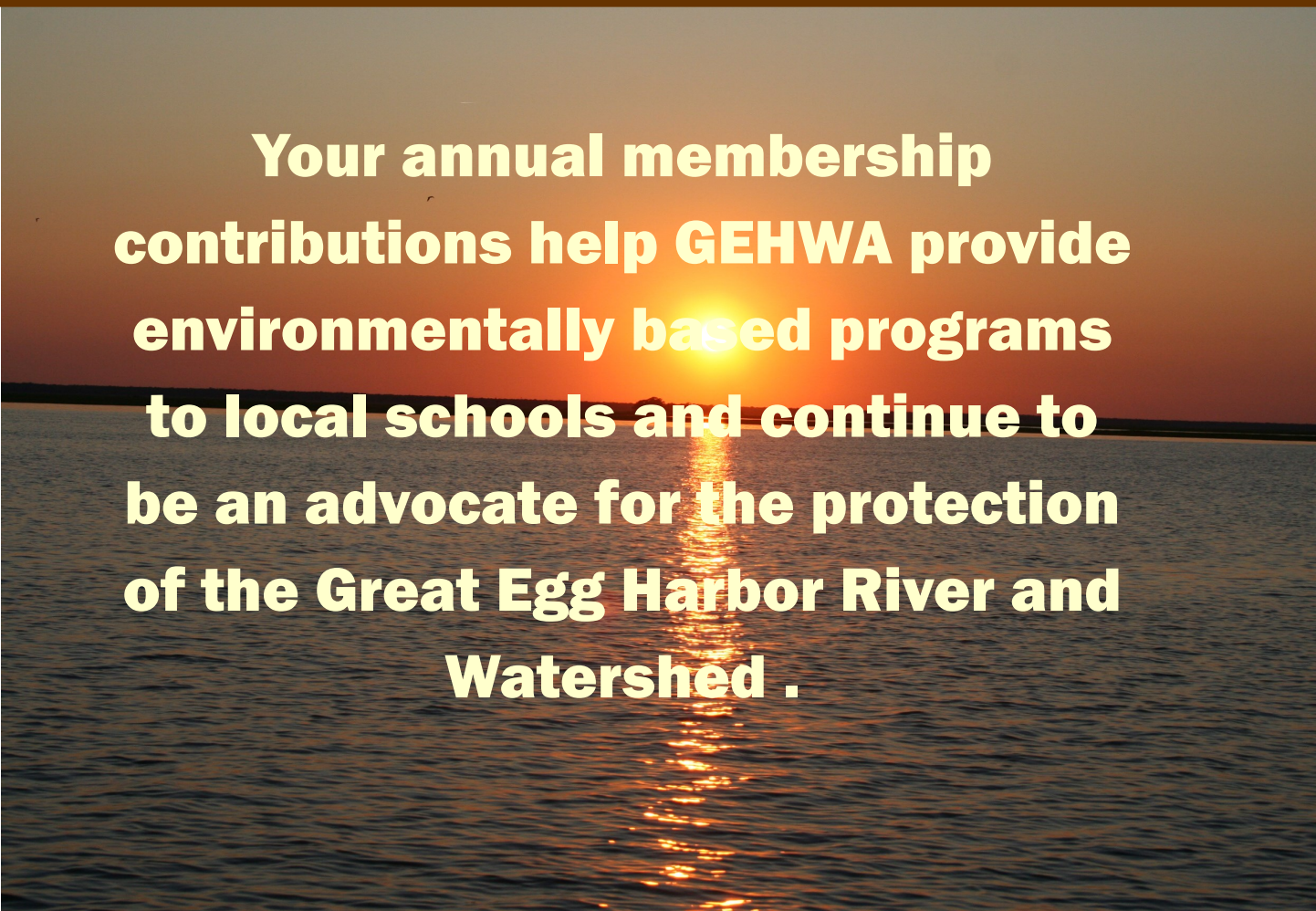
GEHWA Picnic



Female Blue-claw Crab



Stream Sampling with Stockton Students



**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

2017

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2017- GEHWA Member Meeting—Program to be announced

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting—Annual Reorganization Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2017- GEHWA ANNUAL Member Meeting & Program

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 - GEHWA Member Meeting—Annual Frog Walk
(Details will be provided closer to the event)



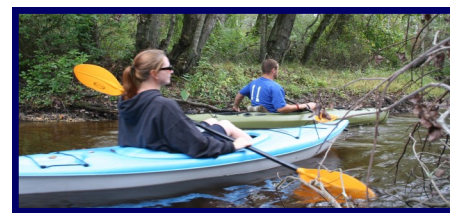
Wednesday, June 21, 2017- Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 - GEHWA Member & Friends Picnic and Campfire (Location and details will be provided closer to the event)



Wednesday, August 16, 2017 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Saturday, September 30, 2017 GEHWA— Canoe/
Kayak event on the Great Egg Harbor River (Details will
be provided closer to the event)



Wednesday, October 18, 2017 - Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 - GEHWA Member Meeting— Program to be announced.

Thursday, December 14, 2017—Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Annual Trustee Meeting (Time and Location provided closer to the event)

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 - 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 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!



Student holding a Dragonfly Nymph



Students from Alder Avenue School searching for macroinvertebrates

Contact Information

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



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