



River Currents



Winter 2024

www.gehwa.org

Issue 77

Outdoor Classroom at Stockton University

The first three bullet points of GEHWA's Mission Statement are:

- To protect and restore the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed;
- To promote research and action to determine and secure a healthy river system;
- **To expand public awareness, education and appreciation of the watershed's many valuable and unique resources.**

The third bullet point is accomplished through the many outreach programs hosted by the staff of GEHWA. During 2023, the staff and volunteers educated and interacted with 8,048 students and 5,837 adults at 66 events. Our volunteers provided over 500 hours of service to assist in the education of young people. Through our focused effort to provide meaningful educational programs to the public we have been successful at expanding public awareness and appreciation of the watershed's many valuable and unique resources.

At times we travel beyond the boundaries of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed to provide educational opportunities that will broaden the recipients knowledge of environmental issues and give them a greater understanding of negative impacts to



Morses Mill Stream on
Richard Stockton University Campus

water quality. For approximately 15 years we have partnered with Richard Stockton University Professors to provide educational programs for students. Currently we work with Catherine Tredick, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, to lead an outdoor Environmental Principles lab at Morses Mill stream on the Richard Stockton ...continued on page 2

...continued from page 1 University campus in Galloway Township. We are helping to educate the next generation so that they will help to protect and restore the resources of the Great Egg Harbor River. By moving the classroom out-of-doors and providing an interactive hands-on activity the students are first encouraged to visually apply their knowledge as they assess the health of the stream and surrounding forested habitat. Then they participate in the collection of aquatic macroinvertebrates



University Students Given an Overview of the Site and Details on Macroinvertebrate Collection Methods

from the stream. Macroinvertebrates are small organisms without a backbone that are visible to the naked eye. Most macroinvertebrates living in the water are insects in their larval or nymph stage until they reach their adult stage where they emerge from a waterbody to become flying insects. Macroinvertebrates are classified into three categories of pollution sensitivity: Sensitive, Less Sensitive and



Students Collecting Macroinvertebrate Samples from the Stream



Students Sorting and Identifying Macroinvertebrates

Tolerant. Since macroinvertebrates do not travel very far in a water body, the way fish do, they can be used to determine water quality. By evaluating the habitat and sampling and identifying the macroinvertebrates the students can then determine whether or not the stream is healthy or impaired.

This one event fulfills the 1st three bullet points of our Mission Statement that seeks to Protect, Promote and expand the Great Egg Harbor River and Watershed.



Sorted Macroinvertebrates

CoCoRaHS - An International Citizen Science Precipitation Monitoring Program

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) originated at the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University in 1998 following a flood at Fort Collins the previous year that resulted in a loss of life. All 50 states participate along with Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, the Bahamas and Guam. CoCoRaHS data is used by the National Weather Service, meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers and many others.

New Jersey joined the network in February of 2008. The Akers and Maun households joined in March of 2008. For almost 16 years we have recorded precipitation or lack of same, on a daily basis. **Image 1** reflects Station Activity to date. **Image 2** shows above average precipitation in December for Akers and Maun. It also shows how close to normal in 2023 for annual precipitation. **Image 3** reflects 15 years of precipitation data at each location. It is great to have access to this data. If you are interested in learning more about **CoCoRaHS** go to www.cocorahs.org or contact Fred or Julie Akers, or Lynn Maun.

**Akers' Data -
Top 3 Images
Maun's Data -
Bottom 3 Images**

Station Activity

Period of Record: Mar 21, 2008 - Jan 3, 2024

Duration of Record: 15 years 9 months 13 days

Pct of Days covered by Precip Obs: 99%

Observation Counts

Daily Precip: 5,719	Multi-day Precip: 8
Condition Monitors: 0	Significant Weather: 15
Hail: 0	Total Obs: 5,742

Precipitation Normals Comparison

Month: December 2023: 9.22"

December 1-31, 2023 (30 of 31 days covered by obs)

NOAA Normal: 4.39"
Departure from Normal: ↑ 4.83" : 210% of Normal

Year: 2023: 46.29"

Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2023 (358 of 365 days covered by obs)

NOAA Normal: 46.81"
Departure from Normal: ↓ -0.52" : 99% of Normal

Year	Missing	Max Daily	Total
2024	363 Days	0.00"	0.00"
2023	7 Days	3.72"	46.29"
2022	0 Days	3.02"	39.69"
2021	4 Days	3.18"	50.70"
2020	4 Days	3.65"	57.47"
2019	3 Days	1.80"	49.18"
2018	3 Days	3.07"	69.25"
2017	0 Days	2.99"	50.48"
2016	1 Days	2.54"	41.39"
2015	0 Days	4.24"	52.83"
2014	0 Days	6.79"	57.71"
2013	0 Days	1.93"	45.50"
2012	0 Days	3.88"	44.37"
2011	1 Days	7.35"	61.89"
2010	2 Days	2.17"	47.33"
2009	5 Days	2.45"	58.75"
2008	81 Days	2.69"	34.60"

Station Activity

Period of Record: Mar 5, 2008 - Jan 3, 2024

Duration of Record: 15 years 9 months 29 days

Pct of Days covered by Precip Obs: 99%

Observation Counts

Daily Precip: 5,749	Multi-day Precip: 10
Condition Monitors: 0	Significant Weather: 22
Hail: 4	Total Obs: 5,785

Precipitation Normals Comparison

Month: December 2023: 7.88"

December 1-31, 2023 (31 of 31 days covered by obs)

NOAA Normal: 4.04"
Departure from Normal: ↑ 3.84" : 195% of Normal

Year: 2023: 43.14"

Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2023 (365 of 365 days covered by obs)

NOAA Normal: 45.57"
Departure from Normal: ↓ -2.43" : 95% of Normal

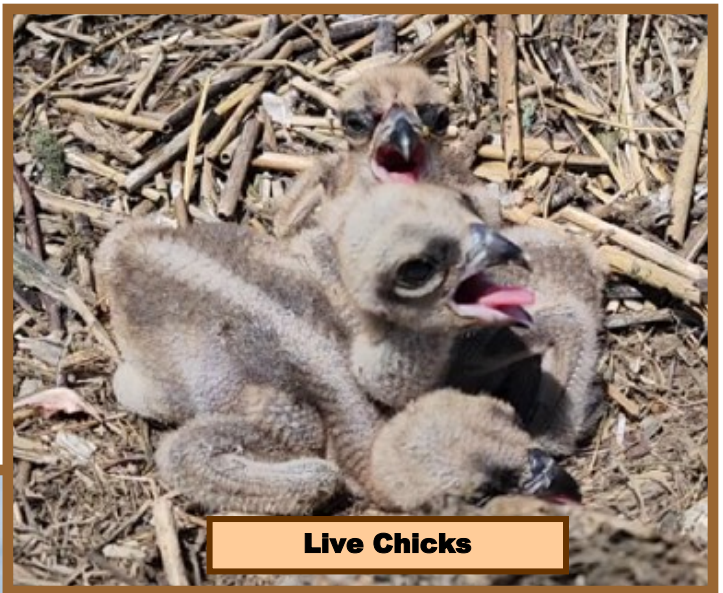
Year	Missing	Max Daily	Total
2024	363 Days	0.00"	0.00"
2023	0 Days	3.29"	43.14"
2022	2 Days	2.47"	41.95"
2021	2 Days	1.93"	38.20"
2020	2 Days	3.30"	58.59"
2019	1 Days	1.79"	42.60"
2018	0 Days	2.81"	59.24"
2017	0 Days	2.37"	41.43"
2016	0 Days	1.59"	39.25"
2015	1 Days	3.34"	56.16"
2014	0 Days	4.48"	45.00"
2013	0 Days	3.85"	44.10"
2012	0 Days	4.33"	45.63"
2011	0 Days	9.29"	62.48"
2010	0 Days	3.06"	41.56"
2009	0 Days	2.05"	47.69"
2008	65 Days	2.10"	30.43"

2023 Was not a Successful Year for the GEHWA/GEHRC Osprey Nesting Colony

On June 24 and 25 we surveyed the nesting osprey colony, west of the parkway bridge, on the Great Egg and Tuckahoe Rivers. Twenty-four of the 50 nests were active, down from 31 active sites in 2022. During the survey we found 10 dead chicks both in the nest and on the ground. This was not a normal occurrence. We may find 1 or 2 dead chicks and a few unhatched eggs in a given year. Ben Wurst, NJ project coordinator of the "Osprey Project" sent an email stating he felt the June nor'easter prevented adult male osprey from finding forage in the ocean which resulted in chick deaths.

Fred suggested, since our colony is west of the parkway and does not forage in the ocean that maybe the smoke from the fires in NJ and Canada might have contributed to the inability of the adult males to forage as a result of health issues. In the 15 years we have monitored the osprey colony this was our 4th lowest number of chicks

Osprey chick mortality in nest 166-B-047 observed on 6/25/23 on the Great Egg Harbor River near Jeffers Landing



per nest; an average of 1.75.

There isn't much data on the impacts of smoke on avian species, although studies have shown smoke can damage bird's lungs.

Calendar of GEHWA and GEHRC Meetings 2024

(Check out our calendar at www.gehwa.org for additional information about upcoming events)

Our hybrid meetings are held at the Warren Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor and via Zoom. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM. The Zoom link will be sent by email.

Tuesday, January 23, 2024- *GEHWA Member Meeting - “A Celebration of the Birds of the Great Egg Harbor”*

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - *Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting—Annual Reorganization Meeting*

Tuesday, March 26, 2024- *GEHWA ANNUAL Member Meeting, Program and Election of GEHWA Board of Trustees*

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - *Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting*

Tuesday, May 28, 2024- *GEHWA Member Meeting—Annual Frog Walk (Location details will be provided closer to the event)*

Wednesday, June 19, 2024- *Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting*

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 - *GEHWA Member & Friends Picnic and Campfire (Location and details will be provided closer to the event)*

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 - *Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting*

Saturday, September 28, 2024 *GEHWA— Annual Canoe/Kayak event on or near the Great Egg Harbor River*

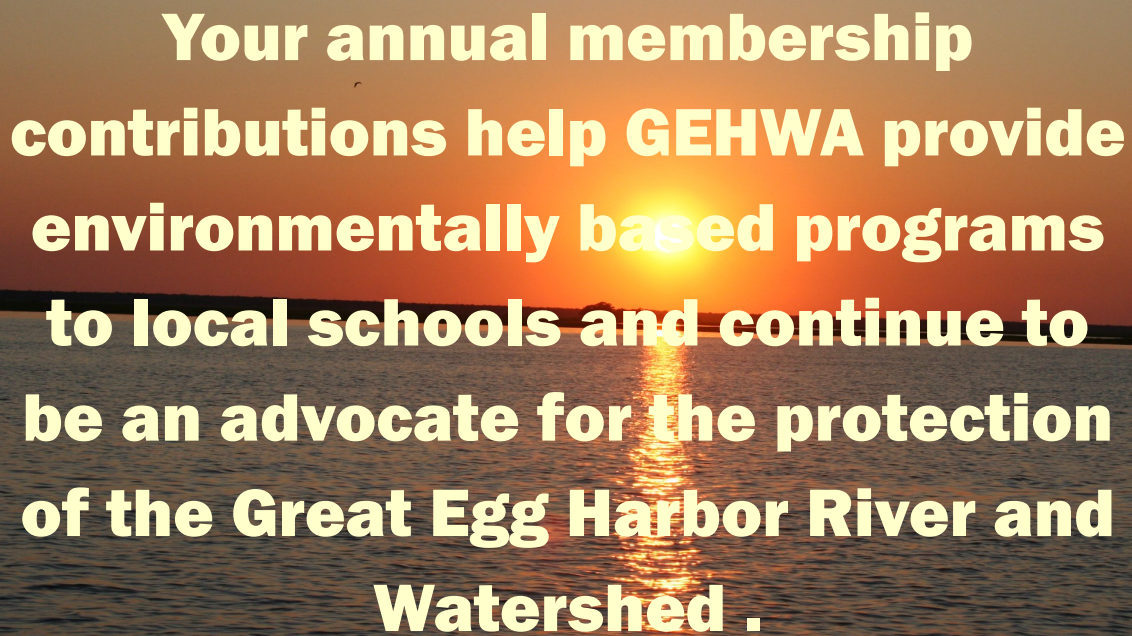
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 - *Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Meeting*

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 - *GEHWA Member Meeting— Program to be announced.*

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 - *Great Egg Harbor NS & R River Council Annual Holiday Meeting*

Please plan on attending these events.

(If you are interested in attending a meeting via Zoom, and need the link, please contact Lynn Maun @ lynnkmaun@comcast.net)



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 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



Outdoor Classroom at Corson's Inlet



Student holding a Dragonfly Nymph

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



Students from Alder Avenue School searching for macroinvertebrates

REMEMBER our environmentally focused programs are FREE!

Contact Information

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Email: bhandley99@gmail.com
Lynn Maun, Edu. Outreach Coord. (856) 649-2792
Email: lynnkmaun@comcast.net
National Park Service
Paul Kenney (610) 203-4248; Paul_Kenney@nps.gov
NJ DEP Hotline 1-877 WARN DEP

NJ DEP Watershed Management Office
(609) 777-0580
Atlantic County Department of Planning
(609) 645-5898
US Army Corps of Engineers (215) 656-6725
NJ DEP Regulatory Office for Atlantic County
(609) 292-8292
NJ DEP Enforcement Officer (732) 255-0787
Pinelands Commission
(609) 894-7300

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
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