#### **Great Egg Harbor River Council**

#### **Chair:**

**Gregory Gregory** 

**Bill Reinert** 

**Somers Point** 

Vice Chair: Rick Coe

Monroe Twp.

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

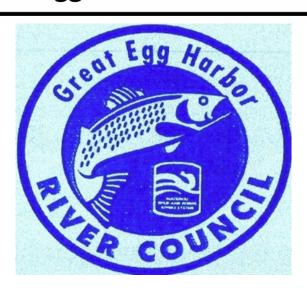
Julie Akers Lou Harvey Jenn Jennings

Buena Vista Twp.

Alison Stefanik Kathleen Federico Daniel Patterson

**Corbin City** 

Bill Christman
Denise Appleget *Hamilton Twp.* 



Ralph Bernard Bill Egan Susan Stiles

Weymouth

Twp.
Clark Sprigman
Winslow Twp.

John Keenan Lynnee LoCicero

Hammonton

Jim Owen Jr.

im Owen Jr.

Estell Manor

**Greg Conway** 

**Borough of** 

**Folsom** 

David Brown

**Tom Baum** 

Egg Harbor Twp.

Bill Handley

Steve Eisenhauer

Bill Stuempfig

Upper Twp.

**Dick Colby** 

Paul Ludgate

Clay Emerson

**GEHWA** 

### **Open Public Meetings Act Statement**

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

Meeting notices were sent to the Courier Post and the Press of Atlantic City.

All meeting notices are also posted on the GEHWA website calendar at www.gehwa.org.



## River Council Roll Call

<u>Julie Akers</u>

Buena Vista Twp

(Lou Harvey)

(Jenn Jennings)

Alison Stefanik Corbin City

(Kathleen Federico)

(Daniel Patterson)

Jim Owen

**Estell Manor** 

(William Donath Sr.)

**Bill Christman** 

Hamilton Twp.

(Michael Dupras)

Rick Coe

Monroe Twp.

**Ralph Bernard** 

Weymouth Twp.

(Bill Egan)

(Susan Stiles)

**Gregory Gregory** 

Somers Point

(Bill Reinert)

John Keenan

Hammonton

(Lynnee LoCicero)

**Clark Sprigman** 

Winslow Twp.

Bill Handley

Upper Twp.

(Steve Eisenhauer)

(Bill Stuempfig)

Dick Colby

**GEHWA** 

(Paul Ludgate)

(Clay Emerson)

**Greg Conway** 

**David Brown** 

(Tom Baum)

Borough of Folsom

Egg Harbor Twp.

## **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**



**Great Egg Harbor River Council** 

# **Public Portion**



**Great Egg Harbor River Council** 





Lynn Maun

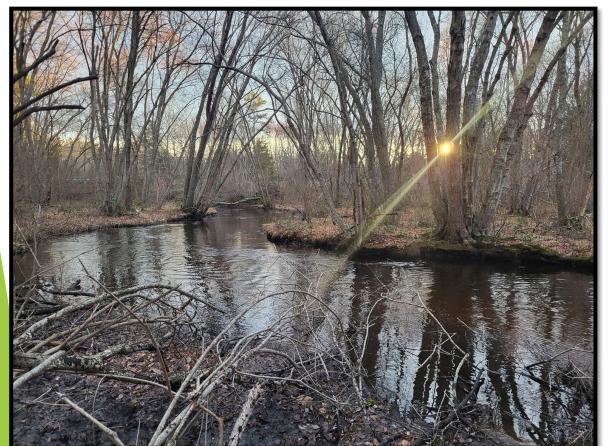
Education and Outreach Coordinator

# Community Outreach "Schools"

St. Vincent De Paul Elective Programs for 6th, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades February, March and April 2025

St. Vincent De Paul Elective Programs February - STEM Program February 21, 2025 St. Vincent De Paul Elective Programs March - Macroinvertebrates March 21, 2025

#### **South River Sampling Location**













St. Vincent De Paul
Elective Programs
April - Binoculars and Bird
Watching
April 11, 2025



All day rain inspired creativity.

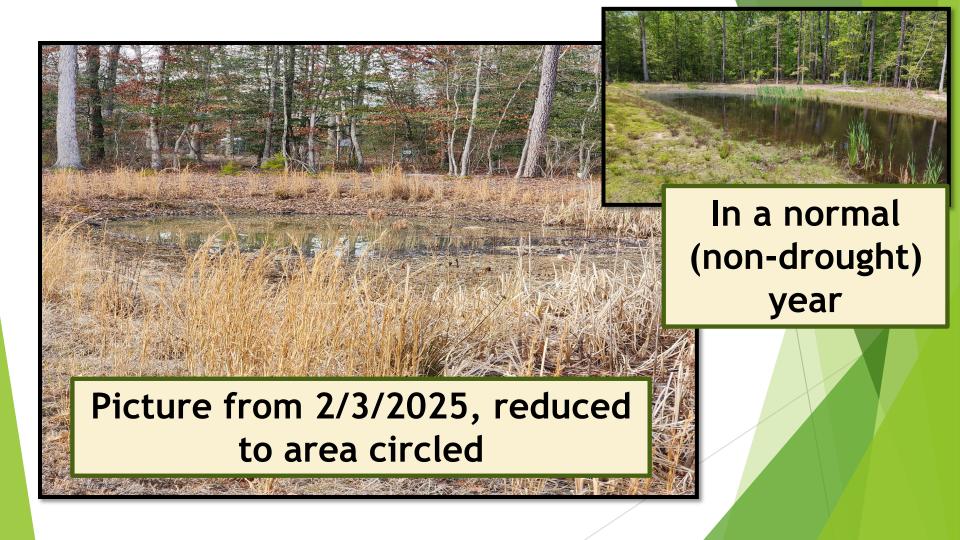






3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students from South Main Street School from Pleasantville at the Nature Center on Friday, March 26, 2025

# Inside - Frogs and Toads of NJ with Lynn Outside - Hike with Julie







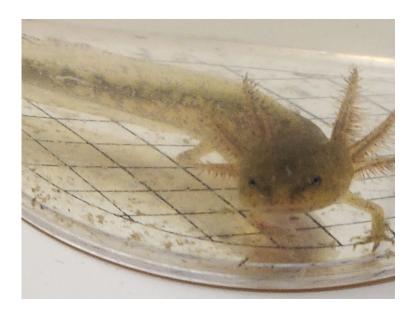












Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp. 24 programs for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students between March 27 & April 10, 2025

# Students learned about nonpoint source pollution, groundwater and the Great Egg Harbor River

# Fernwood Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grades April 2,2025 Macroinvertebrates













## Fernwood Avenue Middle School

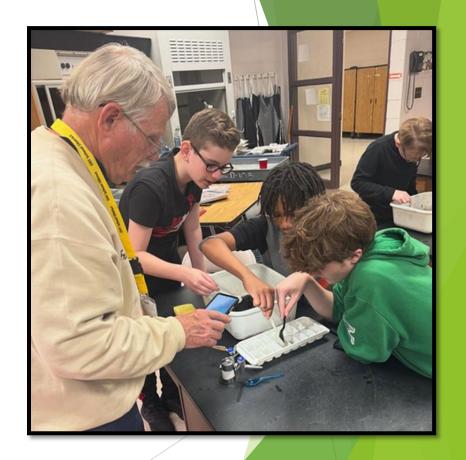
Weekly Newsletter

Week of March 30, 2025

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT Fernwood Avenue Middle School | Smore Newsletters

#### Macroinvertebrates

Mr. Zompa's science classes were treated to a presentation on macroinvertebrates by representatives from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. They brought macroinvertebrate samples from the South River in Mays Landing and taught students about the important role macroinvertebrates play in our local ecosystem and determining water quality. The GEHWA has been a close partner of the Fernwood Science Department and funded countless programs and field trips over the last 20 years. Thank you to Mr. Fred Akers, Mrs. Lynn Maun and Mrs. Brooke Fisher for engaging our students and exposing them to the world of macroinvertebrates!



**Stockton University** Streamside Classroom for Environmental Principals Lab using Macroinvertebrates on April 14 & 16, 2025





#### 3/25/2024



9/18/2024











GEHWA will provide many student educational programs in May & June at Corson's Inlet for Fernwood MS and St. Vincent De Paul

GEHWA will provide many student educational programs in April & May at Estell Manor Park for Hamilton Schools

# Events, Meetings & Continuing Education

# Pinelands Short Course at Stockton University on Saturday, March 8, 2025

GEHWA's Members Meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Bill Reinert presented a program on "NJ's Threatened and Endangered **Shorebirds** 



# Upcoming Events & Meetings

ACUA "Earth Day" Celebration Sunday, April 27, 2025





GEHWA's "Hike for Frogs" on Tuesday,

May 27, 2025

Tuesday,
May 27, 2025 at
7:30 PM,
at Piney Hollow
Preserve





Please join us as we explore the Piney Hollow Preserve for the 5th year, during our "Hike for Frogs"







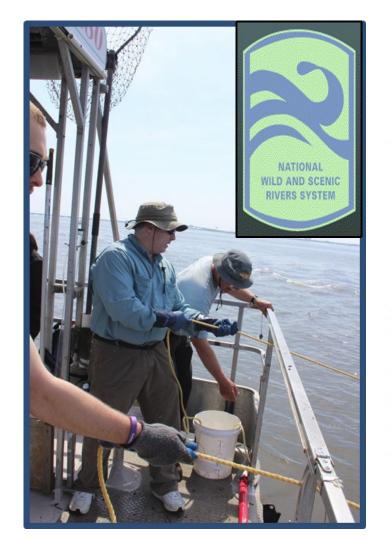


# Learning New Things

Before refrigerators, how was milk kept from spoiling?



In Russia, before refrigeration existed, fresh milk was preserved by placing live brown frogs inside buckets of milk. Years later, scientist Albert Lebedev discovered that the skin of these frogs released antimicrobial compounds that helped keep milk free of bacteria.



#### **National Park Service**



#### Paul Kenney Retirement

On 3/28, Paul Kenney retired from the National Park Service.

We will miss Paul, but we are happy to share that Kurt Cheng is back on board with NPS and will continue to work with us.

### **Old Business**



**Great Egg Harbor River Council** 

## **New Business**



**Great Egg Harbor River Council** 

#### River Councilor Reports for each Municipality.



Buena Vista Township
Corbin City
Egg Harbor Township
Estell Manor
Folsom Borough
Hamilton Township
Hammonton Town

Monroe Township
Somers Point City
Upper Township
Weymouth Township
Winslow Township
Great Egg Harbor Watershed
National Park Service



#### Watershed Ambassador Clean Up - Hamilton Twp

Brooke and Fred partnered with the Americorps Watershed Ambassador and the Hamilton Sustainabili Team to do a roadside and stream clean up on Knights Ave in Hamilton Township on Saturday March 29th.

The group cleared out tons of trash including cans, bottles, rugs, tires, and a truck cap.



#### 3/29 Upper Tuckahoe Paddle

Following the clean up, Brooke led a group of 4 on a paddle up Plumber's Creek to Route 49 where we saw multiple Red wing black birds and Wood Ducks up river.



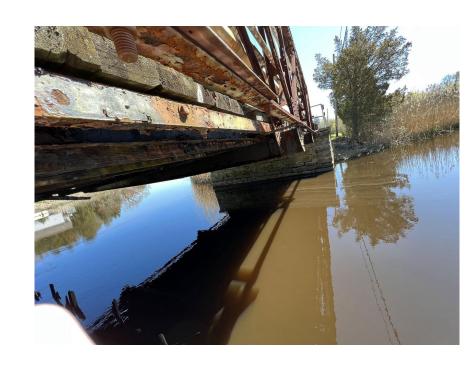


#### Marshallville Road Bridge Updates

Upper Township residents continue to wait for the bridge over Mill Creek to be replaced.

County Engineer Bob Church notified residents that the project was awarded to Schiavone Construction, but that the prefabricated bridge design and construction will take about 24 weeks.

This pushes this project timeline back to late September instead of this spring.



#### Tuckahoe River Clean up Saturday 5/10

After the freeze that we had on the river this winter, there is a lot of debris to be cleaned up on the Tuckahoe.

We are currently organizing a river clean up for Saturday May 10th at Mosquito Landing.



#### Tuckahoe River Kayak & Paddle Fundraiser

We are starting to meet with Upper Township to organize the next kayak and Paddle fundraiser on the Tuckahoe.

Last year this event was well attended with over 50 participants, as well as even more spectators.





#### Tuckahoe River Kayak Race

Brooke met with Upper Township EMS on 4/8 to start planning this event.

The race will be taking place on Saturday August 2nd in the evening.

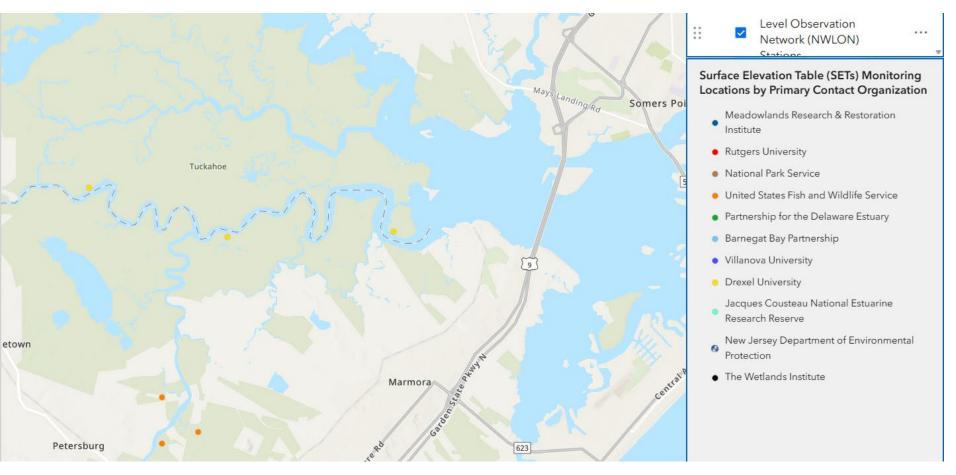


#### NJ Tidal Wetland Monitoring Network

The mission of the NJTWMN is to identify current conditions and trends of tidal wetlands in New Jersey to improve resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems by providing data to prioritize restoration efforts and support informed management decisions.

NJTWMN collects data and created a Mapping Tool that includes the GEH Estuary





Drexel University is monitoring elevation in the Tuckahoe in 3 locations

#### What other metrics does the NJTWMN measure?

These data may not yet be available in the database at this time.

1

#### Geospatial

Reliable elevation data are critical for understanding the effects of sea-level rise on tidal wetlands. Elevation data are typically collected using Real-Time Kinematic Positioning (RTK GPS), static GPS, or digital leveling techniques.

#### Water levels

Water level loggers are deployed near monitoring sites to capture the range of tides locally. With >5 months of data, local tide datums are developed to more accurately reflect local conditions.

3

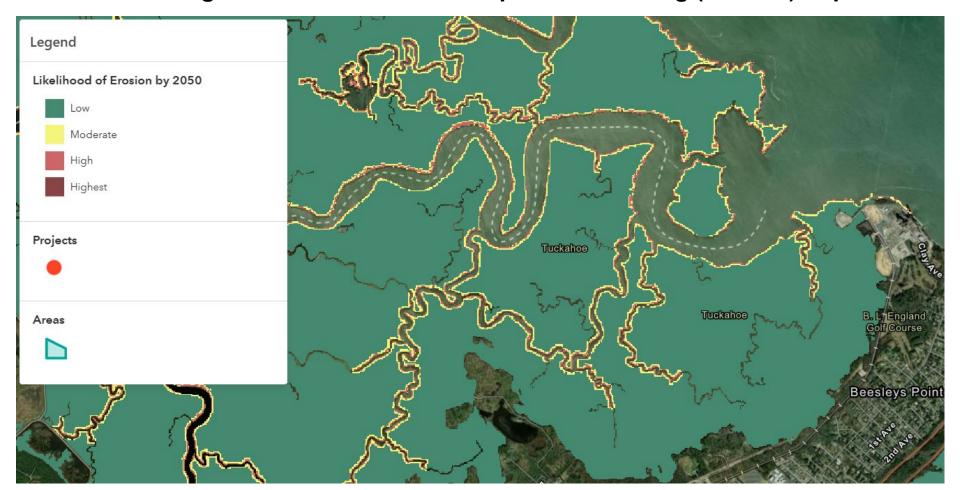
#### Water Quality

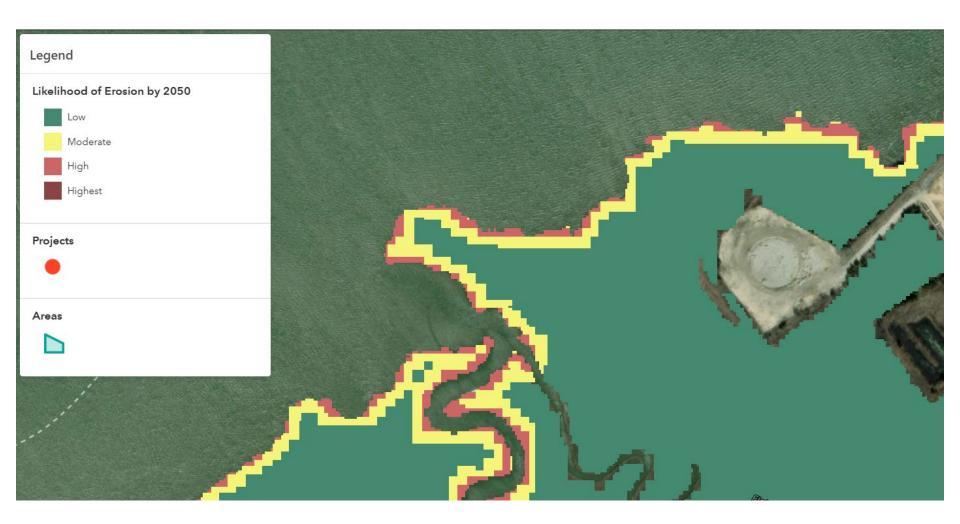
We collect basic water quality data for site characterization of tidal waters associated with SETs. The parameters collected include temperature, specific conductivity, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, suspended sediment concentration, and more.

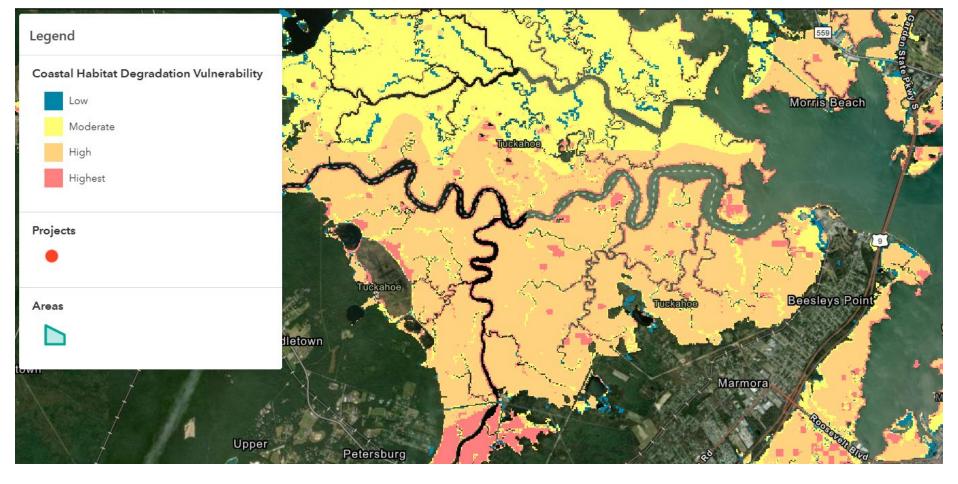
#### Soils

Soil samples are collected in relation to SETs and carbon sequestration applications. Metrics include carbon, bulk density, pH, nutrients, and salinity.

#### Coastal Ecological Restoration and Adaptation Planning (CERAP) Explorer





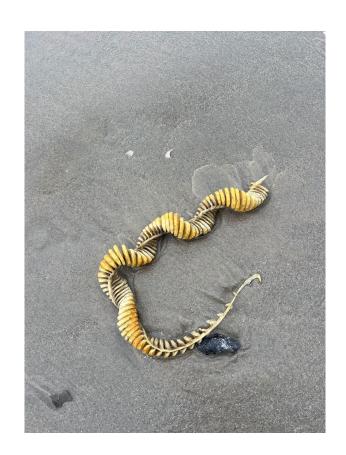


High & Moderate Vulnerability to Habitat Degradation in the Watershed

#### 4/3 Corson's Inlet Hike

On 4/3, Brooke hiked around Corson's inlet and found several whelk egg casings and overturned horseshoe crabs.

Fernwood students will be coming to Corson's Inlet with GEHWA every week in May starting 5/2



#### Ocean City Welcome Center Sign Updates

Lynn designed a sign for the OC welcome center that can also be used as a poster or an outdoor sign in additional places.

The Ocean City Yacht Club donated \$2,000 for this project and will bring this design to their board for approval.

The Mayor and Administrator from Ocean City have approved the installation.

The next step is to get quotations from sign companies.





#### Coastal Salt Marsh of the Great Egg Harbor Estuary



Valuable Habitat for Wetlands Wildlife

The Great Egg Harbor River and Estuary are Part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)

#### PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The marsh grasses use sunlight as an energy source to create food through photosynthesis.

The grasses die back
each fall, and bacteria
decompose it into a rich
soup known as detritus
that along with algae
serves as the base of
the very productive salt
marsh food web.



Great blue heron (Ardea herodias)



The Great Egg Harbor Bay has extensive salt marshes, where freshwater mixes with saltwater and the tides fill and drain the marshes twice a day. This is also called an estuary. The Great Egg Harbor Estuary provides shelter, food, and nursery grounds for commercial and recreational fish species, including blue crab, flounder, seabass, and striped bass. Salt marshes are important to the health of coastal communities and ecosystems. They protect shorelines from erosion, reduce the flow of flood waters, and help maintain water quality. The marshes also

store carbon, which helps to moderate the effects of climate change. Salt marshes also provide opportunities for fishing, kayaking, paddleboarding and sailing. They also offer scenic views, especially at sunrise and sunset.







Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus )

A healthy estuary ecosystem is essential for the many species that rely on its properties to thrive.



Great black-backed Gull (Larus marinus) with Food

Early explorers discovered an area rich with nesting birds and so named it "Eyren Haven" (Egg Harbor). Today the National Park Service considers it one of the top 10 places in North America for birding.



## Watershed Institute Conference 2/21/25 - Fred



## Watershed Institute Conference 2/21/25 - Fred

- Climate Resilience Funding Directory
- Beneficial Use Learning Network
  - www.njcoastalresilience.org/workgroup/buln-workgroup
  - Guidance documents OTW
- NJ Restoration Tool Organization Suite (ResTOrS)
  - · A suite of desktop tools useful to planning projects
  - njrestors.rutgers.edu
- Coastal Marsh Restoration: An Ecosystem Approach for the Mid-Atlantic
- Economic valuation of marshes resources
  - Carbon sequestration, storm damage control, reduced flooding, fish and wildlife resources, ecotourism, water

## Pinelands Short Course 3/8/25 - Fred



## Pinelands Short Course 3/8/25 - Fred

**Geological Time Spiral** 

**Salt Hay Farming Ditch Fences** 





## Pinelands Permanent Land Preservation Summit 4/3/25 - Fred



PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor TAHESHA L.WAY Lt. Governor

### State of New Jersey

THE PINELANDS COMMISSION PO Box 359 New Lisbon, NJ 08064 (609) 894-7300 www.nj.gov/pinelands

General Information: Info@pinelands.nj.gov Application Specific Information: AppInfo@pinelands.nj.gov



LAURA E. MATOS Chair SUSAN R. GROGAN Executive Director

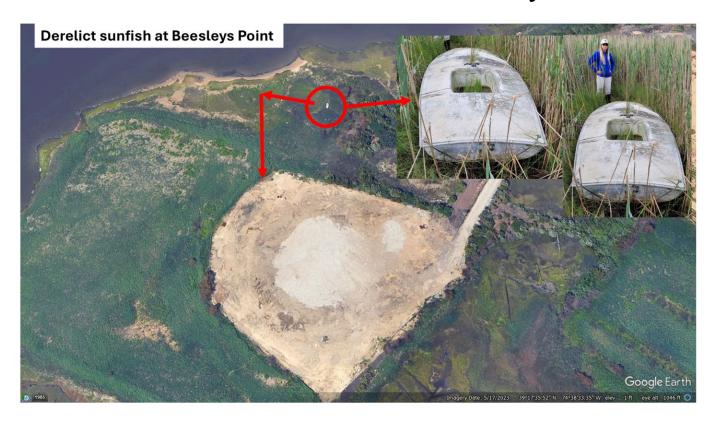
### **Permanent Land Preservation Summit**

April 3, 2025

## Pinelands Permanent Land Preservation Summit 4/3/25 - Fred

9:00 AM	Welcome - Susan R. Grogan, Executive Director, NJ Pinelands Commission
9:15 AM	Funding and Resources for Creating Accessible Trails – Cecile Murphy, Chief of Local and Nonprofit Assistance, Green Acres, and Mackenzie Piggott, NJ State Trails Coordinator, Green Acres
9:45 AM	"The Pinelands is for Everyone" Initiative – Sean Kane-Holland, Nature and Disability Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and Scott Chesney, Communications Facilitator
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	<b>Trail Construction Guidance</b> – Peter Dolan, Trail Program Manager, NY-NJ Trail Conference
11:30 AM	<b>Pinelands Conservation Fund Project Criteria and Schedule</b> – Gina Berg, Land Use Programs Director, NJ Pinelands Commission
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Stafford Township Forecastle Basin Accessible Trail – Matthew R. von der Hayden, Township Administrator, Stafford Township
1:45 PM	Accessible Trail Standards in the Pinelands
	Introduction - Katie Elliott, Planning Specialist, NJ Pinelands Commission
	Round Table Discussion

# Abandoned Boat Removal from Beesleys Point - Fred



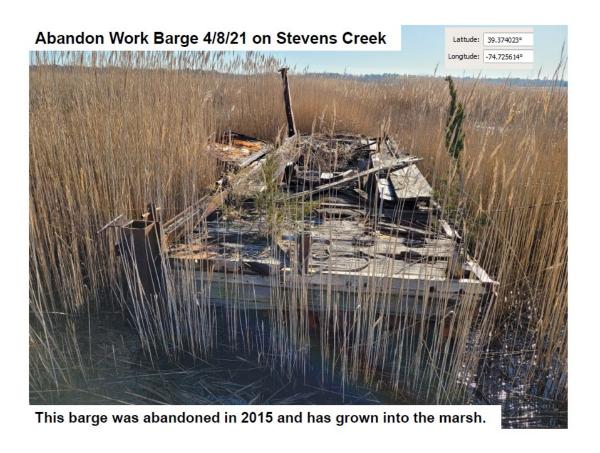
## Abandoned Boat Removal from Beesleys Point - Fred

3/23/25 Volunteers

Dave Brown
Clay Emerson
Bill Reinert
Jim Akers
David Kreutz
Chris Wilson
Steve Jasiecki



## Last Abandoned Boat on the River - Fred



## Last Abandoned Boat on the River - Fred



#### The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

P.O. Box 109, 175 9th Street Newtonville, NJ 08346

Fred Akers, Operations Manager 609-335-3744 fred.akers13@gmail.com

January 20, 2025

Mark Sullivan, Associate Professor of Marine Science Stockton University Marine Field Station Building #504 30 Wilson Avenue Port Republic, NJ 08241

RE: Funding to remove a derelict work barge from Stephen Creek, a tributary of the Great Egg Harbor River, not to exceed \$15,000.

Dear Mark,

I am writing to inquire about possible funding support from Stockton to help us to remove a legacy derelict flat bottom work barge from the marsh edge of Stephen Creek. This vessel is approximately 30 ft. long and 10 ft. wide, and has been in its present location since 2014, for over 10 years.

#### OFFICERS

Julie Akers President

Paul Ludgate Vice President

Dick Colby Treasurer

#### TRUSTEES

Steve Eisenhauer

Clark Sprigman

Pat Sprigman

Clay Emerson

Carol Jones

Bill Stuempfig

**STAFF** 

# Spring Boat Show in Atlantic City - Fred



## PWSRs Washington DC Updates - Fred

Fred was in Washington DC for 4 days in March with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition to promote the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

Fred attended 8 scheduled meetings with Congressional offices, 1 meeting with the NPS Comptroller/Acting Director, and stopped by 16 other offices to promote the PWSRs House Dear Colleague Letter.

Senator Menendez sponsored the PWSRs Senate Dear Colleague Letter for 10 years, but since he is now in jail, Fred is trying to get Andy Kim to do it.

Todate, the National Park Service does not know what the FY25 funding will be for the next budget year starting on October 1, 2025.



# Spring Osprey Maintenance - Fred and Dave Brown



# Spring Osprey Maintenance - Fred and Steve Jasiecki

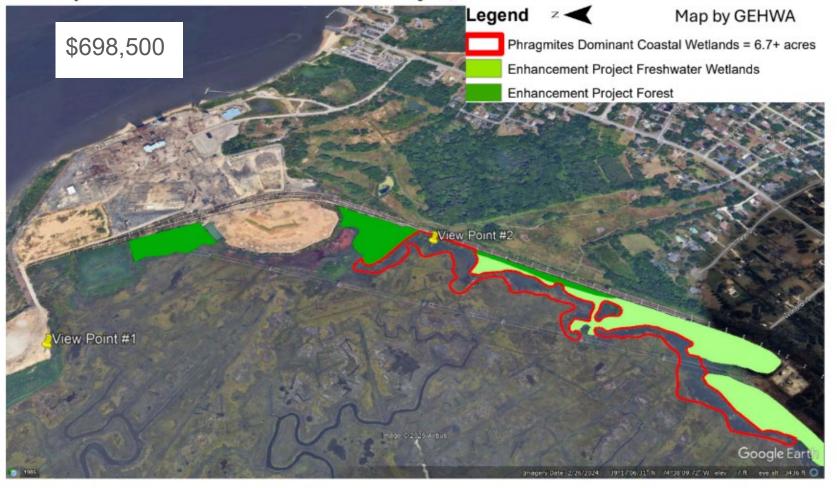
Osprey Platform Repairs may be needed at Inside Thorofare



# Spring Osprey Maintenance - Fred and Jasiecki



### Beesley Point Tidal Wetland Enhancement Project, NJDEP 2015 Land use Land Cover Data.



The Coastal Wetlands on the Great Egg Harbor Bay at the site of the Demolished B.L. England Generation Station are disappearing rapidly.



This NJ 1970 Wetlands Base Map offers some of the best historic georeferencing to trace the location of the coastal wetlands edge extent in 1970



## In several areas, the wetlands loss has been over 60 ft.



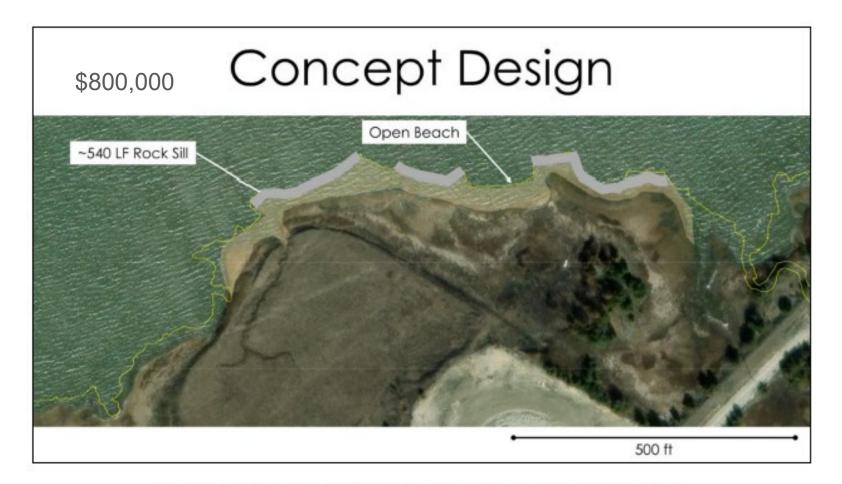


Figure 6. Planar view of estimated sill placement and restored habitats.



### The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

P.O. Box 109, 175 9th Street Newtonville, NJ 08346

Fred Akers, Operations Manager 609-335-3744 fred.akers13@gmail.com

March 31, 2025

### April 24 is the decision day.

Supplemental Project Proposal

The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) is pleased to submit this supplemental project application as an addition to our coastal New Jersey tidal wetlands enhancement project in response to the New Jersey Wetlands Mitigation Council's In-Lieu Fee Grant Program's Request for Proposals dated August 15, 2024:

Initial Funding Request = \$698,500.00 Supplement Funding Request = \$800,000.00 New Total Funding Request = \$1,498,500.00

### **OFFICERS**

Julie Akers President

Paul Ludgate Vice President

Dick Colby Treasurer

### TRUSTEES

Steve Eisenhauer

Clark Sprigman

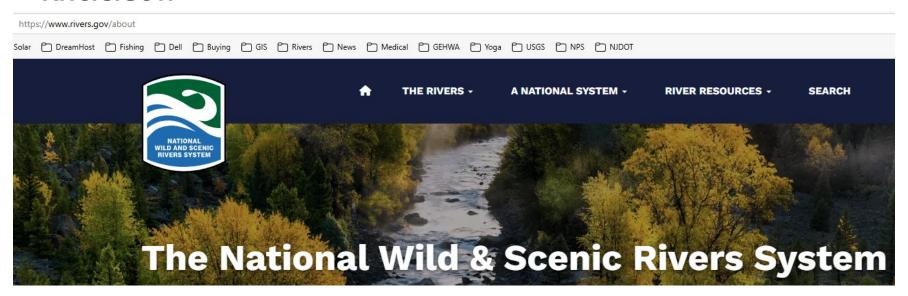
Pat Sprigman

Clay Emerson

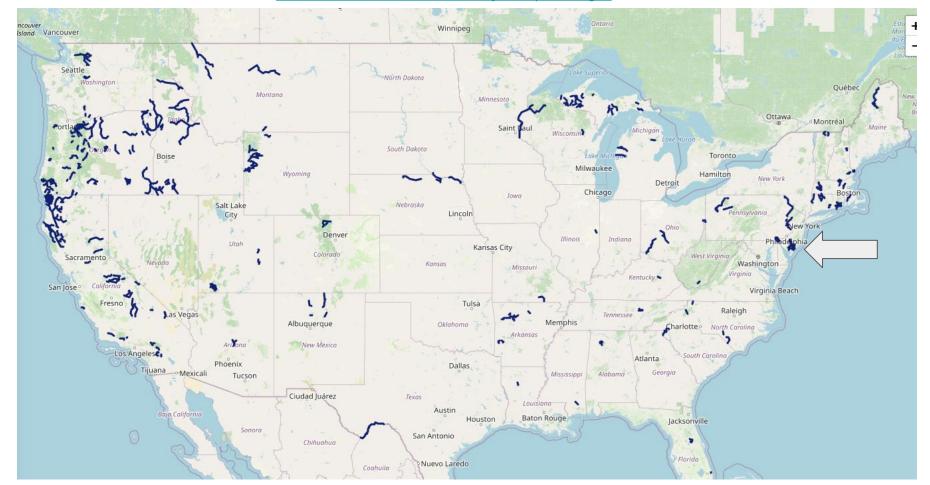
Carol Jones

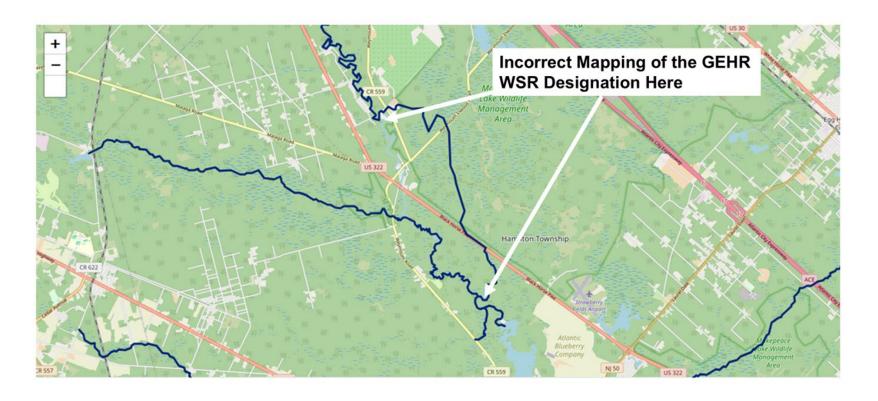
# Getting NPS to fix the Great Egg Harbor River Map - Fred

There were 8 errors in the accurate mapping of the designated segments in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River on the NPS site at Rivers.Gov.



### National Wild and Scenic River System | Rivers.gov

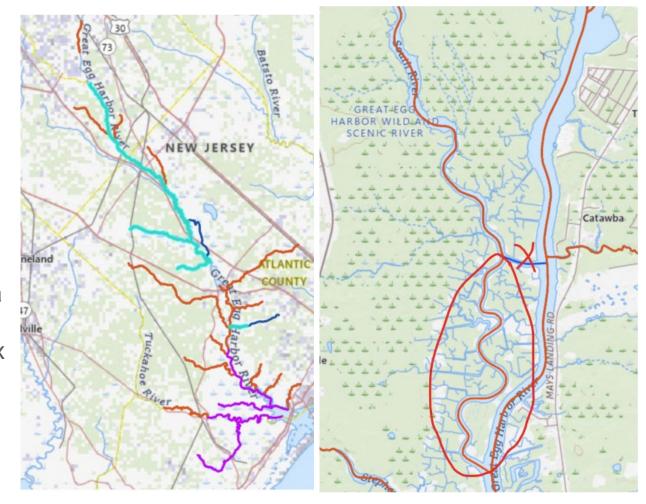




**Rivers In New Jersey** 

Corita Waters from the NPS Washington Office assigned a GIS Specialist to work with Fred to find and fix all the errors.

On April 8 there was a Teams meeting where a joint search was conducted to find and fix all the errors.



## Fred has been removing large predatory cats from the River

