



Your Land & Water

A Joint Newsletter of
the Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds and
the South Jersey Land Trust



Winter 2005

*Late February days; and now at last, Might you have thought that winter's woe was past;
So fair the sky and so soft the air. - William Morris Earthly Paradise*

Bill to Repeal "Fast Track" Legislation

Here is the latest news from the Save NJ Coalition that is working to repeal the "Fast Track" legislation. The Federation is a member of the Coalition. Unfortunately, the 44 legislative co-sponsors of the Repeal do not include any from our area:*

The fast track law was passed without public input in only 3 days this past June and **seriously weakens public health and environmental protections, lets polluters write/approve their own permits, weakens home rule, and too often eliminates public participation.**

Since fast track came to light, 3 federal agencies (US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) have written 5 letters raising concerns about fast track violating various federal statutes and jeopardizing federal funding for a variety of state infrastructure and

environmental programs.

Further, fast track requires the state to front at least \$20 million during a particularly difficult budget crunch. Recognizing these serious problems, Governor McGreevey issued an Executive Order delaying fast track's implementation until the spring of 2005.

While there has been talk about fixing fast track, these discussions are largely occurring out of the public eye and only relatively minor amendments are being seriously considered. In addition, there's a desire by some for the process to continue, mirroring last Spring's severely flawed process—no real public input or debate.

Fast track can't be fixed

Unless it is repealed and replaced with real smart growth legislation, the only real debate will be how much more traffic, flooding, loss of open space and pollution will result from the "fix".

Take Action

Please write/call your legislators. Include your name, address & ask for a response. Tell them to:

- 1) Co-sponsor S2157/A3650 to repeal the fast track bill.
- 2) Help stop the back room dealing and ask them to call for a full public debate.
- 3) Make Your Letter To A Politician into A Letter To The Editor and Mail to Your Newspaper!

You can find the name, address, and telephone number for your senator and assemblypersons at www.njleg.state.nj.us.

Save NJ Coalition is a coalition of over 50 environmental, civil rights, labor, community and religious groups dedicated to repealing the fast track law and replacing it with real smart growth legislation. For more information visit their website at www.savenj.net or contact Dena Mottola, NJ PIRG Executive Director, at 609-394-8155; David Pringle, NJEF Campaign Director, at 609-530-1515; Jeff Tittel, NJ Sierra Club Director, at 609-656-7612; or Cindy Zipf, COA Executive Director, at 732-872-0111.

Calling all Members

Please help us accumulate some data on how we are doing as an organization. Go to our website <http://www.sjwatersheds.org/> click on the member questionnaire and complete the questions.

You don't need to enter your name if you would rather not do so, but if you are a member of the Board of Trustees please indicate that fact in

the name area so we can differentiate your responses from other members. Thank you for helping us be better as we grow.

Rich Thomas - VP



**FEDERATION OF GLOUCESTER
COUNTY WATERSHEDS**

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Pat Mulligan
Rob Reid
Clay Sutton



The mission of the Federation and its member watershed associations is to promote the preservation and protection of water resources within the watersheds of Gloucester County and adjoining areas. This is accomplished through education, advocacy, and land preservation.

Member Watershed Associations

Mantua/Woodbury Creeks WA
Raccoon/Repaupo Creeks WA
Oldmans Creek WA
Great Egg Harbor River WA
Upper Maurice River WA



The South Jersey Land Trust was organized in 1990 by a diverse group of residents to preserve significant areas of open space and irreplaceable natural resources in Southern New Jersey. It accomplishes this through direct acquisition, conservation easements, conservation planning assistance, promotion of ecotourism, and land preservation education.

Regular Meetings
(Call to Confirm)

**Federation of Gloucester
County Watersheds**
4th Thursday of the month, 7 pm
Scotland Run Nature Center
Call: 856-694-3681
www.sjwatersheds.org

South Jersey Land Trust
3rd Thursday of the month, 7 pm
Scotland Run Nature Center
Call 856-589-2049

Bird Walks

1st Saturday of the month
Scotland Run Nature Center
For info on this and other programs, call
856-881-0845

Gloucester County Nature Club
2nd Thursday of the month, 7pm
EIRC, Washington Twp.
Programs on many nature topics
& great field trips.

Call 856-468-9272 or email Brian or
Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@aol.com

**Generous
Contribution**

The Federation wishes to thank member Ed Komczyk for his selection of the Federation as the recipient of an award that he received. Earlier this year Ed noticed a leaking pipeline in his neighborhood in West Deptford and alerted the company, which promptly repaired it. As a good corporate neighbor, the Colonial Pipeline Co. has a program to recognize and reward citizens who assist them in identifying problems like these. Ed was awarded \$500, which he chose to contribute to an environmental organization he supports. We are most grateful to Ed Komczyk for his generosity to the Federation and his continuing support. The Federation also thanks Colonial Pipeline for having such a program.

2005 Events

Gardening for Wildlife
March 12th (Sat.)

STREAM CLEANUP DAY
April 9th (Sat.)

EARTH DAY
April 23rd (Sat.)

WATERFEST
June 5th (Sun.)

4 - H FAIR
July 20th - 24th (Wed. - Sun.)

MEMBERS PARTY
August 25th (Thurs.)

WINE & CHEESE
October 1st (Sat.)

ANNUAL MEETING
November 10th (Thurs.)

Diaster on the Delaware - Pat Mullighan

On November 26, 2004, the day after Thanksgiving, when residents of Gloucester County awoke from a late sleep-in following the previous day's festivities, the news was shocking. Like the heavy crude oil that was seeping into the Delaware from a ruptured tanker, the news came slowly into our consciousness at first. But when the full story was known several days later we realized that it was more of a gush than a seep and that 276,000 gallons of heavy Venezuelan Crude had been spilled into our beloved river.

The hull of the Athos I, a tanker belonging to the Greek-based Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA, registered in Cyprus, had been ripped open in two places when turning into the Citgo Petroleum dock at West Deptford. At first we heard that 30,000 gallons had spilled into the river, but that 276,000 gallons were

unaccounted for. We now know it was all in the river. We also know that the two gashes in the tanker's hull were apparently caused by a large pump housing dropped off a dredging barge and abandoned in the river. How ironic?

The Coast Guard responded as swiftly as it could to stem the spill and prevent it from spreading. As the Delaware Riverkeeper, Maya Van Rossum, said: it was not fast enough. There probably is no "fast enough" response to such a tragedy. The result is that the spill has spread to cover 126 miles of shoreline in three states, from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to the lower Delaware Bay. An unknown number of wildlife, including geese, ducks, gulls, herons, swans and turtles have been affected. Estimates now are that 257 birds have been cleaned, of which 155 have been released; 162

are reported dead.

The cleanup will take months and the effect on the ecology of the river and its tributaries will last for years. Only a small portion of the oil has been recovered. Much of the remaining oil has submerged and will not be accessible for cleanup. The Delaware is an important commercial channel, but it is primarily a waterway. It has suffered enormously from commercial "dumping". This is the 10th oil spill since 1993, resulting in 855,000 gallons of oil being dumped in our river. The Athos I is a single-hull tanker, which is banned in Europe. At this rate of spills, we could have 5 or 6 more before 2011, when double hull tankers are required. We call on our elected representatives from the three states to "fast track" the requirement for double hull tankers to prevent even one more disaster.

SPRING EVENT

Gardening for Wildlife

A Family Event

Come learn how to create a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife in a ½-day workshop



Saturday, March 12th

9:00am-12:30 pm



Franklin Township Community Center

(Franklin Township Public Library) Route 538 (Coles Mill Road)
1 block east of Route 47

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

- Planning a Backyard Habitat** - Jill Taylor, Gloucester County Naturalist
- Native Plants for Your Backyard** - Lorraine Kiefer, Triple Oaks Nursery owner, environmental columnist, Phila. Flower Show speaker
- Attracting Birds and Butterflies** - John D'Orio, Heislerville Nursery owner and environmental columnist
- Environmentally-Friendly Lawn Care** - Jane Nogaki, of the Environmental Federation



Federation of Gloucester
County Watersheds



Gloucester County Dept. of
Parks & Recreation

FREE, but please register:

Call 856-881-0845 or email
ccladybug5@hotmail.com

**Door prize is a free
composter!**

Information, materials,
freebies, and light
refreshments

Kids Activities

(5 yrs - 11) 9:15 - 12:30 pm

**Make a backyard bird
feeder**

Make a birdseed pinecone
Learn about backyard
animals

Mix your own potting soil
Make a seed pot
& Plant seeds

South Jersey Land Trust - Janet Eisenhauer

Moving Forward in 2005

The dizzying pace of our lives and of the world around us will continue to be daunting as we begin this New Year. As individuals, we often take this opportunity for new beginnings, to reassess our priorities and refocus on our goals. The same holds true for organizations like South Jersey Land Trust.

SJLT, formed in 1990, is headed into its' 15th year of preserving land in the southern region of New Jersey. As a group of dedicated volunteers, SJLT has succeeded in preserving over 1,400 acres of land and is currently working on preserv-

ing another 240 acres. In taking stock of our efforts and the preservation needs of South Jersey, it is obvious that we need to do more.

If you are interested in taking a more active part in land preservation efforts, or if you or someone you know can provide professional services within the limits of a nonprofit organization budget, give us a call. A special SJLT meeting is planned for February 17th, to welcome those interested in becoming more involved in our efforts. For more information, please call Janet Eisenhauer at 856-589-2049.

Here's how you can help.

Become a Member: Your membership and financial support will enable us to continue to carry out important preservation projects that protect wildlife habitat, water resources, and our region's quality of life.

Get Involved: Your special skills and interests could help provide SJLT with some needed support. We are seeking assistance in:
website development
accounting/auditing services
legal support services
help with mailings and events
monitoring preserves

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Gloucester County Nature Club Presents Gift to SJLT

- Suzanne McCarthy

For the past few years, the Federation and SJLT have combined the Annual Meeting of each organization with a regular meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club. This year's meeting on November 11th was full of pleasant activity. A delightful presentation was made by the County Nature Club (GCNC), which gave a check to the South Jersey Land Trust that represents the proceeds from GCNC's highly successful participation in the World Series of Birding last May.

This event is sponsored by the NJ Audubon Society and consists of teams of birders who identify as many species within one 24-hour period they can, in either the whole state or in a limited geographic area. Individual contributors are invited to pledge an amount per bird sighted (or heard), which generates funding for an organization of the Team's choice. In 2004, the GCNC team selected SJLT as their recipient.

The GCNC Team, led by Jeff Holt, saw a total of 119 (!) bird



Photo: Joe Hoddinott, Biggerboatsstudios.com

species within Gloucester County, which generated contributions of \$1,833 to help preserve land in South Jersey. Way to go, Team!!

Trail Dedication to William Coughlin - Paul Greger



Bill Coughlin, center, with members of Washington Twp. Environmental Commission

On December 18, 2004, Washington Township dedicated a nature trail in Washington Township Park as the William "Bill" Coughlin Nature Trail. Short speeches of appreciation for Bill's many years of service and numerous contributions were made by the Township Mayor, members of the Washington Township Environmental Commission, which Bill helped to found, the Federation, on whose Board Bill has served for many years, and by other organizations. The naming was a surprise to Bill himself, although everyone else, including his family, was in on the secret. This was well-deserved recognition!

An Award in Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to the Protection of Southern New Jersey's Environmental Resources was presented to Jay Mounier by the Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds and the South Jersey Land Trust at their combined Annual Meeting on November 11, 2004.

Jay Mounier has given many years of service to the environment through his various roles as a member of the Boards of the Federation and of SJLT, as Chairman of the Franklin Township Planning Board, of the Franklin Open Space Committee, Master Plan Committee, and Environmental Commission, and as a former Pinelands Commissioner. Jay has been a major participant in several land preservation achievements by the SJLT and was a driving force behind the formation of the Upper Maurice River Watershed Association, as well as fostering the

Special Award to Jay Mounier - Suzanne McCarthy



Pictured above: Janet Eisenhower, SJLT President, Jay Mounier, & Suzanne McCarthy, Federation President

establishment of WaterFest and the continuing growth of the Federation.

A Michael Hogan photograph of the Piney Hollow Natural Area in Franklin Township, one of Jay's favorite haunts and one that he helped to preserve, was presented to

Jay, along with a check. These are small tokens of great appreciation for all Jay's work, guidance, and inspiration, for which the members of both organizations are deeply grateful. Thank you, Jay.



Photo: Marine Mammal Stranding Center

Pollution Dangers to Fish & Wildlife - Belinda Irizarry

Below are some things you can do to protect fish, wildlife and your watershed. For more information, check out the Marine Mammal Stranding Center's website at www.mmsc.org.

ECO TIPS

Pollution Item

Six Pack Ring

Plastic, Cans & Glass Jars

Plastic Baggies

Balloons

Pet Waste

Plastic Shopping Bag

Plastic netting & fishing line

Dangers

Six pack rings can get stuck around an animal's neck. The animal can suffocate or starve

Animals can get their head stuck by trying to eat the food left in the jar, especially peanut butter

Baggies can look like jelly fish when they're in the ocean full of water. Animals will eat the baggie and it can get stuck in their digestive track

Animals will eat balloons because they look like an octopus or animals can get entangled in the balloon's ribbon

Your pet's waste can go down the storm drains and pollute our waterways

Animals can get entangled or swallow the bags

Fish and wildlife can get caught in the netting or entangled in the line

What you can do

Cut the plastic rings and throw into garbage can

Wash out and recycle

Don't litter

Never let balloons flyaway

Pick-up after your pets and put into garbage can

Reuse or recycle plastic bags or put into the garbage

Do not leave tangled fishing line behind. Cut into small pieces before throwing out