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Your Land & Water

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



Spring 2004

"Nature is the symbol of the spirit." Ralph Waldo Emerson

YOUR BACKYARD A HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

- Suzanne McCarthy



Each year the Federation sponsors a Backyard Habitat Workshop. This year the workshop occurred on April 17th at the Gloucester County Library in Mullica Hill. Presenters included Lorraine and Ted Kiefer from Triple Oaks Nursery and Herb Garden; Dr. Joe Patt Biology Professor and Caretaker of the Peak Preserve on the Lower Morris River, Millville; Jill Taylor, Gloucester County Department of Parks and Recreation Naturalist based at Scotland Run Nature Center, Clayton; and Suzanne McCarthy, President of the Federation and South Jersey Land Trust Trustee. All the presenters donated their time and expertise to help local gardeners design and plant so that wildlife habitat is increased in our area.

cal waterways, and the many variations in garden design that are possible. One of the objectives of the Backyard Habitat program is to reduce the quantity of pollutants washing from residential lawns into local streams and lakes, as well as to retain habitat for wildlife.

Free door prizes were contributed by a range of sponsors and included flowering plants and a gift certificate donated by Triple Oaks Nursery, a composter from the Gloucester County Improvement Authority, 20 lbs. of bird seed donated by Wild Birds Unlimited (new store in Washington Township, 415 Egg Harbor Road), box of organic fruit and vegetables from Suburban Organics, and a basket of gardening books and tools from the Federation.

Attendees received valuable information on native plants, life cycle needs of wildlife, the relationship of backyards to our lo-



Good Internet Resources

- eNature: www.enature.com
- Natl. Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat
- Natural Landscapers: www.for-wild.org
- Triple Oaks Nursery: www.tripleoaks.com
- Wild Birds Unlimited: www.wbu.com

Create a Habitat in Your Backyard

The following comes from presenters at the Workshop:

- Reduce lawn area with ground covers
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn - they fertilize your grass
- Use native plants - they will do better and require less water
- Let clover and other "lawn" intruders stay in your lawn - they are good butterfly nectar plants
- Set aside a portion of lawn and let it grow - see what you already have.
- Avoid invasive species that are still sold by many nurseries
- To attract wildlife, focus on providing food plants, water, and shelter
- Remember to fill needs of all stages of wildlife life cycle. Many herbs are good caterpillar food plants.
- Eliminate use of herbicides and insecticides. They are harmful to you and to wildlife
- Capture rain for your garden; don't let it run down the drain/storm sewer
- Put up a sign that says "Backyard Habitat" - it will help inform your neighbors and deflect complaints about unmowed grass
- Consider getting your backyard "certified" by the National Wildlife Federation

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FEDERATION & SJLT



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 Watershed Associations
Raccoon/Repaupo Creeks Watershed Associations
Oldmans Creek Watershed Associations
Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Associations
Upper Maurice River Watershed Associations

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

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



The South Jersey Land Trust was organized in February of 1990 by a diverse group of South Jersey residents concerned with preservation and protection of Southern New Jersey irreplaceable natural resources.

Volunteer for the SJLT

- Assisting in monitoring of preserved lands
- Gathering information on land available for preservation in project areas
- Assisting with educational outreach at local fairs.

Please contact Janet Eisenhauer at
856-589-2049

Volunteer for the Federation

Assisting at local community days to help staff its educational booth in May, June, July, September. Can you give a couple of hours to talk with folks about protecting our local environment? Its fun, rewarding and you will enjoy working with other like-minded individuals. Please contact Christine Coulson at 856-358-3140

Watershed Conference for NJ Educators

Making the Watershed Connection An Interactive Conference

Tuesday, June 29 (workshops)
Wednesday, June 30 (field trips)
EcoComplex, Bordentown
For more info: 732-932-9271
www.cookce.rutgers.edu
Sponsored by NJDEP & the Watershed Partnership for NJ.

TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS - Don Kirchhoffer

On March 29, 2004, surrounded by hundreds of people on the lawn between the NJ Capital Annex and the New Jersey State Museum, Governor McGreevey signed the New Jersey Transfer of Development Rights bill. Within the previous two weeks the Senate had passed the bill by a vote of 37-2 and the Assembly by 65-10.

Such comfortable margins do not reflect the long, difficult and frustrating efforts the environmental community has expended over more than 20 years to get a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) bill passed.

William Dressel, Executive Director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities said in a letter to mayors, "This legislation is the result of partnering between the League, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Community Affairs, the Governor's Office, the State Legislature and a

long-list of environmental and agricultural advocates. It is a consensus bill, and its evolution included numerous concessions by all the involved parties."

Under this TDR bill a town (or a regional group of towns) identifies areas for open space, farmland preservation, and/or natural resource protection as a "sending" area. The town must also select an area for future growth, a "receiving" area. The density of housing allowed is increased in the growth or receiving areas and decreased in preservation or sending areas.

Landowners in the sending areas are given "development credits" for the development value of their land. Landowners who choose to sell their development credits must place permanent deed restriction to their land, which prevents future development. It also protects the existing value (or "equity") of

the landowner in the sending area

Developers are encouraged to buy these credits because they can use them to 'buy' the right to build housing units at higher-than-normally allowed densities in the growth or receiving areas (which increases the profitability of the development).

TDR can enable municipalities to decide exactly where and how they want to grow. TDR as a tool is not perfect, nor is it a panacea for all towns. It takes a lot of work to tailor the program to meet local needs, and to do the required advance planning. Towns will not be able to draft TDR plans until new regulations are adopted. TDR's are the most effective way for a town to preserve its farmland and natural resources. Every reader of this newsletter should raise the issue of TDRs at the next council or planning board meeting.

If you want to preserve the present character of your town, a TDR program is the only way it can be done.

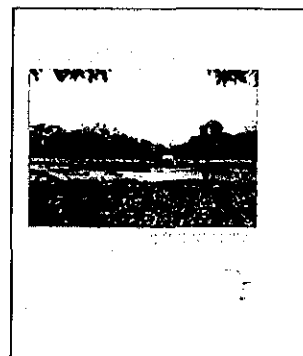
"TDR can enable municipalities to decide exactly where and how they want to grow."

COMING SOON - FREE for TEACHERS

A Teacher's Guide to the Watersheds of Gloucester County

The Federation is a sponsor, along with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and Rowan University, of a free publication about the watersheds and water issues of Gloucester County, designed for teachers of 4th through 12th grades, which will be issued in May 2004. This well-illustrated volume includes descriptions of the 8 watersheds within the county and information on Gloucester County history, natural history, geology, and drinking water. It has sections on the threats to

surface water and groundwater, a chapter on ways that students can help to reduce these threats, and extensive teacher resource data. It also includes a glossary, maps, and an Appendix with several classroom activities.



"Cover of the Camden County Teacher's Guide published in November 2003"

The Gloucester Teacher's Guide will be available for free downloading from the DVRPC website (www.dvrpc.org/planning/environmental/water/watershed/teachers.htm) by the end of May. The printed version of the Gloucester Teacher's Guide will be distributed to all County schools and to all middle school science teachers. Teachers may request a free *Guide* by calling the Federation at 856-478-2264 (leave a clear message), or by emailing smccarthy@dvrpc.org.

WATERSHED CREATURE FEATURE THE BARRED OWL

Courtesy of the Great Egg Harbor Newsletter and the NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Program website



Photo:

Description:

The barred owl is a medium-sized gray-brown owl streaked with white horizontal barring on the chest and vertical barring on the belly. They are round-headed with a whitish/brown facial disk with dark brown trim and dark brown eyes. The beak is yellow and almost covered by feathers. Size is 16–24 inches and wingspan is 38–50 inches.

Food:

A barred owl can sometimes be seen hunting before dark and will sit on a perch from which it dives upon prey. They eat many kinds of mice, chipmunks, squirrels, opossums, and shrews, along with a wide variety of insects, and snakes, lizards, salamanders, crayfish, and frogs. These owls also consume other birds such as quail, doves, jays, and finches, and will eat other owls and bats. They have been known to wade into shallow water for fish.

Breeding:

Courtship activities begin in February and continue into April. As the nesting season approaches, males chase after females, giving a variety of hooting and screeching calls. The barred owl's song is commonly interpreted to sound like the phrase "Who cooks for you. Who cooks for you alllll!" During courtship, the song is often accompanied by loud "hooah" calls and yowling reminiscent of monkeys. Nests are built in tree cavities, and the lack of such cavities can be a limitation on

barred owl breeding. Females usually lay 2 eggs and incubate them for 23 – 32 days. Parents care for the young for at least 4 months, much longer than most other owls. Pairs mate for life and territories and nest sites are maintained for many years. These owls have been known to live up to 23 years in captivity and 10 years in the wild. Most deaths are likely to be related to man (shootings, roadkills). Great horned owls are their principal natural enemy.

Habitat:

The barred owl is called the "swamp owl" because it prefers wooded swamps with mature trees. In southern New Jersey, barred owls inhabit both deciduous wetland forests and Atlantic white cedar swamps associated with stream corridors. They typically shun human activity and avoid developed and agricultural areas. The barred owl is on the Threatened Species List in New Jer-

sey, meaning it is a species that may become endangered if conditions surrounding them continue to deteriorate. Currently, the barred owl in south Jersey appears to be declining due to development and fragmentation of large tracts of private forested land.

If You Spot a Barred Owl

or discover any other unusual or threatened plant or animal, please report the sighting to NJDEP. You can do this online directly onto a report form, or call to obtain forms. The information needed includes your contact information, location of sighting (marked on a topographic map), description of the species and its behavior, specifics of your observation, and type of habitat generally (grassland, meadow, etc.) and in the immediate vicinity (stream bank, burrow, etc.) Photos are highly desirable.

- Natural Heritage Program (609-984-1339).
www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/repform.html
- NJ Endangered & Nongame Species Program, Division of Fish and Wildlife:
www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/pdf/rptform.pdf
- For the NJ list of endangered and threatened (T and E) animals, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/tandespp.htm
- For T and E plants, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/spplant.html

WaterFest 2004

Sunday, June 5

1:00am-4:00pm | Scotland Run Park, Clayton



WaterFest is an annual countywide festival with food, music, crafters, local watershed activities for the kids, exhibits, educational booths, demonstrations, kayaks, canoes, live animals from the New Jersey State Aquarium and the Academy of Natural Sciences and a Raptor "Hawks and Owls" program.



WIN YOUR SPRING PLANTS at the Federation Booths at WaterFest

Here's your chance to get some terrific plants and other items for your garden or home! At WaterFest at Scotland Run Park on June 6, the Federation will be sponsoring a "Chinese Auction" filled with plants and other gardening items donated by local nurseries. In a Chinese auction you have a good chance of winning one or more of the plants/items that interest you. Over 25 lots will be available at each event, including a composter donated by the Gloucester County Improvement Authority. All donations support the Federation.

SUPPORT AREA NURSERIES That Support the Federation

The following area nurseries donated to the plant/gardening Chinese auctions held at Earth Day and WaterFest this year and last. The Federation encourages you to patronize these nurseries. Be sure to tell the nursery staff that you learned them from this newsletter.

Apple Creek Garden
520 Sicklerville Rd.
Sicklerville 740-4000

Arrowwood Nurseries
Franklinville 697-6045

Bellone's Nursery
491 Harding Hwy (Rte 40)
Franklin Twp. 697-4351

Bertelsen's Greenhouses
309 Lake Avenue
Pitman 589-3838

Bloomers Home & Garden Center
Hurffville-Cross Keys & Fish Pond Rd., Sewell
589-0200

Bononcini Nursery
4268 Black Horse Pk.
Williamstown 629-7721

Cousins Garden Cntr
35 Center St., Sewell
468-8241

D'Angelo's
405 Richwood Rd.
Ewan 881-6039

Danny Jr's. Garden Center
664 Berlin-Cross Keys Rd.,
Sicklerville 629-0016

Dougherty's
3086 Delsea Dr.
Franklinville 694-1216

Drissel's Hardware
334 Greentree Rd.
Turnersville 582-8400

Exley's Landscape
1535 Tanyard Rd.
Sewell 468-5949

Fazzio Garden Center
541 Bridgeton Pike
Mullica Hill 478-6298

Ferrucci Nurseries
1745 Piney Hollow Rd.
Franklin Twp 697-1950

Garden Road Greenhouse & Perennials Farm
402 Garden Rd.
Norma 358-3032

Granato's Garden & Nursery Center
Jessup Mill & Shaub Rd.,
Mantua 468-3095

Green Planet Nursery
1022 Monroeville Rd.
South Harrison Twp.
789-8010

Greentree Nursery & Landscape Co.
453 Fish Pond Rd.
Glassboro 881-2228

Groff's Mill Pond Nurseries & Landscape
1350 N. Delsea Dr.
Pitman 589-8397

Heritage Station Winery
462 Mullica Hill Rd (Rte 322), Mullica Hill
589-4474

Hillcrest Farm & Nursery
123 Thies Rd.
Washington Twp. 589-5696

Jones Harvey Nursery
4223 Black Horse Pike
Cecil 629-7160

Mantua Creek Nursery
1089 Kings Hwy
Thorofare 845-9294

McCann's Nursery
136 Huffville-Grenloch Rd.
Sewell 589-3687

McCloskey's Nursery
419 East High Street
Williamstown 307-9652

Michael's Gardens
305 Pitman Downer Rd.
Washington Twp. 881-0009

Old Swedes Garden Cntr
Swedesboro 241-3800

Prickett Nursery
Mantua Blvd., Sewell
468-0654

Pump House Gardens
1730 Glassboro Rd.
Mantua Twp., 468-6603

R&R Nurseries
801 Aura Rd., Glassboro
881-2187

Sorbello Girls Farm Mrkt
Rte. 77, Harrison Township

Timber Hill Nursery & Garden Center
1214 Ellis Mill Rd.
Glassboro 881-3336

Triple Oaks Nursery
2359 Delsea Dr
Franklinville 694-4272

Visconti Nursery
1459 Centerton Rd.
Elmer 358-6644

Walker's Farm Market
105 Porchtown Rd.
Pittsgrove 358-1318

Zimmerman Farms
425 Salina Rd.
Sewell 468-1611