



Your Land & Water

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



Fall 2005

"Live in each season as it passes; breath the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each." - Thoreau

ASSAULT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LAW

On Thursday, September 29, the U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 229 to 193, passed a bill that would substantially alter provisions of the Endangered Species Act (the ESA). The new bill was sponsored by California Republican Richard W. Pombo who is Chairman of the House Resources Committee and long a foe of the ESA.

Key features of the new bill are:

- It abandons the national commitment to species "recovery" and is concerned only with preventing further extinctions. Currently, if a property is considered essential to a federally listed endangered species' survival and recovery, it is considered a "critical habitat" and part of it can be declared off-limits to development. The new bill replaces "critical habitats" every plans" become "nonbonding guidance," rather than mandatory requirements.
- The bill changes the definition of an endangered species from one that is "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range" to one that is "in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future throughout all or a part of its current range." This means that if an endangered

restored bald eagles to New Jersey, for example, would not be possible under the new law.

- It exempts federal agencies from protecting endangered species as part of government projects. Currently, for example, the Corps of Engineers must consult with Fish and Wildlife before building a dam that might negatively affect a listed species. That would no longer be required.
- It requires payment to landowners, including developers, for complying with the law through voluntary steps to protect habitat, and would compensate for lost business profits on land that is set aside. The total cost of this provision is potentially astronomical.
- The bill exempts pesticide

the law sets a date of 2015 for the entire Endangered Species Act and all permits, licenses, and contracts to expire

with a system of "recovery plans" which would protect only the minimum habitat necessary to avoid immediate extinction. An implicit assumption is that the minimum can be accurately determined. Also, the "recov-

species survives somewhere in the U.S. (its current range), such as bald eagles in Alaska, no efforts need to be made to restore it to where it once lived (its range), such as the lower 48 states. The efforts under the existing ESA that

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FEDERATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

All members are invited to take an active part on Federation Committees, but please confirm before planning to attend a meeting. Sometimes a particular meeting must be rescheduled. For information, or to participate, contact: Christine Nolan (856) 881-2269.

The first three committees hold their meetings at 7:00 pm at the Federation office at 34 S. Delsea Dr. (parking is behind the building).

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month

Nov. 6th (note this mtg is at 6pm), Dec. 6th, & Jan. 3rd

The Committee is in the process of planning the organization's first annual fundraiser dinner. At the next meeting, details of the event will be finalized, including guest speaker and/or entertainment. In addition, fundraising goals for 2006 and 2007 must be mapped out during the next three months. The Committee would love to hear ideas from members.



MEMBERSHIP/EDUCATION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Meets: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Nov. 9th, Dec. 14th, & Jan. 11th

Planning the details of scheduled 2006 events, including the Gardening for Wildlife workshop, stream clean-ups, and community festivals, along with deciding on membership and educational activities for 2006, will be the focus of the next three Committee meetings. Members who can help organize locations, speakers, food, and educational information for these fun activities, or who have ideas for future events, are invited to attend.



WATER QUALITY/HABITAT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Monday of the month

Oct. 24th, Nov 28th, & Jan 23rd



The next meeting's agenda will focus on the Federation's Vernal Pools Survey project scheduled to begin in February 2006. This is being done in partnership with Rowan University's BioClub. Decisions and planning of habitat restoration projects and data-gathering about area waterways during 2006 and 2007 is also a major activity of this Committee, which welcomes member input.



LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

This committee meets at 6:00pm at the Pitman Library

Meets 3rd Thursday of the month

Oct. 20th (workshop at S. Harrison), Nov. 15th (note this is the 3rd Tuesday), and Dec. 15th

The committee will be planning the next three land preservation workshops, scheduled for January, March, and May, including the details of content and speakers to invite. It will also work out arrangements to meet with individual municipal open space and/or agricultural advisory committees over the course of the next 8 months.

Address Correction

There was a misprint in the Summer 05 newsletter. The Federation's office address is 34 S. Delsea Dr., Glassboro, although Federation mail should be sent to P.O. Box 233 Glassboro, NJ 08028.

When is my Renewal Date?

Your renewal date is printed on the address label above your name. If your renewal date has passed, please fill out the form in the back of the newsletter and send it in. Remember that the payment of dues helps offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Most of all, your dues represent that you support the work these organizations are doing. If you have ideas or information that could be in the newsletter, please contact Christine at 881-2269.

Photo Contest

The Gloucester Soil Conservation District is sponsoring an annual photo contest. Photo must be taken in Gloucester County and should be a photo of a landscape, waterscape, agriculture, wildlife, or people interacting with the environment. Deadline: Dec. 9th, 2005. For rules & entry info contact Christina Christine at 856-589-5250 or www.gloucesterscd.org.

**A Teacher's Guide
to the Watersheds of
Gloucester County**
is available for free download at
www.sjwatersheds.org

In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness and a deep sense of loss that we announce the passing of our friend and colleague, Belinda Irizarry, on August 30, 2005. Those of us who knew Belinda were keenly aware of how special she was. Her boundless energy, enthusiasm, kindness, sincerity and knowledge helped us overcome many challenges as we endeavored to "find ourselves" as an organization.

Belinda served on the Board of the Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds and as Secretary of the Board for many years. This was one of several volunteer roles she undertook and to which she gave her limitless imagination and many hours of time. By profession, she was the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. Her intense love of nature and children made her ideally suited for this position. She always had a

smile, even during the most trying of times and somehow managed to find unique and innovative ways to help youngsters understand our precious and fragile environment and to be good stewards of our natural legacy.

Seldom do people like Belinda pass our way and it is hard to imagine how we will continue without her. We will forever be saddened by her absence, yet strengthened by reflecting on her commitment to nature. Rest well, dear friend. You will always be with us.

In memory of Belinda, this regular section of the newsletter, formerly called the "Featured Creature," is renamed as "Belinda's Corner." Belinda was a great lover of animals. She rescued and adopted many individual animals, was active in animal protection groups, and was always a spokesperson for the proper treatment of animals, including wildlife, pets, and domesticated animals.



*Belinda Irizarry
1963 - 2005*

Memorial Fund

The goal is to build the Belinda Irizarry Memorial Fund into a large permanent endowment where enough annual interest can finance special projects that Belinda would have supported. If you wish to contribute, send a check payable to GEHWA and note on it that it's for the "Belinda Irizarry Memorial Fund." All contributors will receive annual updates about projects and events sponsored by the Fund. Mail to: GEHWA, P.O. Box 395, Newtonville, NJ 08346

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF MUNICIPAL LAND PRESERVATION

Thursday, October 20, 6-9 pm
South Harrison Twp. Municipal Bldg.

A review of programs and resources for preserving farmland and open space, and the details of how to carry out easement and fee simple purchases. Representatives from the NJ Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Program, non-profit groups, and other experts will answer questions.

FREE but registration required.

Call 856-881-2269 or email contact@sjwatersheds.org
Directions are on our website at www.sjwatersheds.org

BRINGING WATER TO SOUTH JERSEY

Thursday, November 10th, 7 – 9 PM
EIRC Bldg., 606 Delsea Drive, Washington Township

Do you know where your drinking water comes from? How safe is it? Will limited drinking water supply affect growth and development in South Jersey? David Legg and Suzanne Chiavari of NJ American Water Company will answer your questions and provide the full story on drinking water in our region, including information on pipeline extentsions.

Annual Meeting of the FCGW & SJLT

Directions are on our website at www.sjwatersheds.org

A CLOSER COLLABORATION ~ FGCW & SJLT WILL MERGE

The Boards of the Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds and the South Jersey Land Trust have decided to merge the two organizations into one group. The two non-profits have worked together for many years in a variety of ways, including publishing a joint newsletter (which you are reading), managing the membership databases, and conducting land preservation and education projects together. A merger has been discussed for some time but only recently was the decision made to formally join the organizations. Board members are in the process of determining what issues need to be addressed and what steps taken to carry out

a merger that will retain the important aims and programs of both organizations.

Thanks to a grant from the Environmental Support Center awarded to both groups in September 2005, the services of planning consultant William Bennington can be employed to guide this merger and to conduct a "due diligence" process that will examine all the issues. One such matter will be to agree upon a new name for the merged organization, for which member and community input will be sought. Another step will be to develop a strategic plan for the new organization. Questions about how to merge finances, change tax filings, and other legal

concerns will also be covered.

The thinking at this time is that the new organization will retain its larger geographic focus for land preservation projects and its narrower (Gloucester County) identity for other programming and projects.

A second grant award, from the Stonybrook – Millstone Watershed Association's Watershed Institute, will enable the merged organization to develop a new logo, stationery, brochure, and other materials. Both the Federation and SJLT have been fortunate to obtain this supportive funding, which will facilitate a merger that benefits land and water protection throughout our area.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ENDANGERED SPECIES LAW *cont...*

decisions, allowing use of pesticides without concern for effects on endangered species.

- It allows federal agencies with little experience in wildlife issues to avoid consulting wildlife experts. They would no longer be required to use the best science available. It would also allow the Secretary of the Interior to suppress certain aspects of scientific information about a species.
- The bill would create more opportunities to challenge the government in court – at nearly every step of the process, rather than only upon final agency actions. This would tie up in court for years any efforts to list new species

as endangered. Also, decisions about "recovery plans" would need to be made within only 180 days.

- Finally, the law sets a date of 2015 for the entire Endangered Species Act and all permits, licenses, and contracts to expire.

In short, the new bill effectively destroys the existing ESA. Supporters of the new law claim that the current law's recovery efforts have succeeded for far too few species. Opponents point to the numerous species that have been prevented from becoming extinct and the successes in recovery that have occurred for wolves, peregrine falcons, and American alligators,

among others.

Go to www.saveesa.org for the detailed analysis and links to the text of the bill.

Thank NJ's Reps - They voted NO

Southern New Jersey's Congressional Representatives voted against the Pombo bill (H.R. 3824). If you agree, make an effort to express your thanks to them. Next, the bill goes to the Senate. Let your Senators know what you think.
www.congress.org
Senator Corzine
(202) 224-4744
Senator Lautenberg
(202) 224-3224

**VOTERS TO
DECIDE ON
CLEANER AIR**

Message from NJDEP:

Every year, diesel exhaust causes many cases of serious respiratory illnesses and trigger asthma attacks. On Election Day, Nov. 8th, Garden State voters will decide Ballot Question #2, which would provide funding for a program to reduce exposure to deadly diesel emissions from school buses, garbage trucks, transit buses and publicly owned on-road and non-road diesel-powered vehicles and equipment. Without raising any new taxes from residents or businesses and at no cost to municipalities, the proposed diesel program would be paid for with a portion of revenue from the existing Corporate Business Tax Fund.

A yes vote on this ballot question would allow this Corporate Business Tax revenue to be used to implement the diesel program. A no vote would withhold funding for the diesel program, barring its implementation. To learn more, visit www.StopTheSoot.org

**YOUTH GROUPS, SCOUTS, & CIVIC
ORGANIZATIONS NEEDED**

Community groups are invited to assist with labeling storm drains and distributing door hangers, as part of the Gloucester County Stormwater Management Program.

Towns in Gloucester County, especially those with lots of sidewalks and storm drains, are required by the new stormwater regulations to place "Don't Dump" labels on the drains throughout residential neighborhoods and commercial centers. Although your town's Public Works Department is responsible for applying the labels, they need help. The Federation is organizing local groups to distribute informative doorhangers and, if they wish, to apply the fish-shaped labels to the storm drain inlets.

This is a great one-time activity for your group. The Federation's Program Manager will organize the event with the group leader, and meet the group in the field for a short, fun lesson on where rainwater goes and on how the labels are to be placed. Materials and instruction provided FREE! This activity can take place in all months except the coldest. Set up your group now! Contact Christine at 856-881-2269 or contact@sjwatershed.org.



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Your contribution is tax-deductible.



**Federation of
Gloucester
County
Watersheds**

- New Member
- Renewal
- Basic - \$15
- Contributor - \$35
- Sponsor - \$100
- Volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Send this form along with your check to
FGCW, PO Box 233, Glassboro, NJ 08028



**South Jersey
Land Trust**

- New Member
- Renewal
- Basic - \$25
- Contributor - \$35
- Sponsor - \$100
- Volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Send this form along with your check to
SJLT, 229 Lake Ave., Pitman NJ 08071

Regular Meetings & Events

(Call to Confirm 856-881-2269)

South Jersey Land Trust
3rd Thursday of the month, 7 pm
Pitman Public Library

Federation of Gloucester County
Watersheds
4th Thursday of the month, 7 pm
Scotland Run Nature Center

Membership/Education/Outreach
Committee

2nd Wednesday of the month
7:00pm - Federation Office, 34 S. Delsea Dr.

Development Committee

1st Tuesday of the month
7:00pm - Federation Office, 34 S. Delsea Dr.

Water Quality/Habitat Protection
Committee

4th Monday of the month
7:00pm - Federation Office, 34 S. Delsea Dr.

Land Preservation Committee

3rd Thursday of the month
6:00pm - Pitman Library

SAVE THE DATE

WASHINGTON TWP. CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, October 15th, 8 AM till noon community wide clean up followed by a picnic in Washington Lake Park and an awards program. If you are interested, please contact Jim Donohue at 856-589-0520, ext 232

WILD SCHOOL SITES WORKSHOP

Friday, October 21st 8am -1pm
Scotland Run Park Nature Center, Clayton.
Learn how to create a school habitat site, attract wildlife, and use the site as a teaching tool. Cost is \$12.00 For more info: Christina Christine (856) 589-5250

MALAGA LAKE PARK WOODS CLEAN UP

Saturday, October 22nd, 8 AM till noon (rain date Oct. 29th).
Meet at north parking lot at Malaga Lake. For further info: Call Karen at 856- 694-2624 or kmicarelli@yahoo.com. Wear old clothes, bring rakes or other handy tools, and lunch. Work gloves and beverages provided. Children require an adult chaperone.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Wednesday., Oct. 19th or Monday., Oct. 24th 7-9pm
Learn how the new Phase II Stormwater Regulations affect your local decision making. For Planning and Zoning Board members, elected officials, and anyone interested.
Gloucester County College Health Sciences Building, HS Room 500
RSVP: Robin Dunn at rdunn@kernaneng.com or 856-251-9500