STOP ANTI-OPEN SPACE BILL

In this most densely populated state in the nation, New Jersey voters have consistently supported State funding for land preservation. Open space tax referenda have been approved in every county. Now a misguided bill - A2923, threatens to stop these efforts. Also known as the Fisher bill after its sponsor, Assemblyman Fisher, this bill essentially gives towns the right to block state and nonprofit preservation projects if more than 35% of its land is preserved.

If passed, this bill will allow local politicians to end the preservation of the State’s most environmentally critical regions. Since the bill exempts the Pinelands and the Highlands, it will focus on southern New Jersey’s Delaware Bay Watershed, one of the last unprotected bastions of forests and farmland.

In these rural communities, some local officials are under the misconception that more development and less preservation means more money for their towns to collect in property taxes. This misguided plan for economic stability has been consistently proven to be a plan for economic disaster, resulting in increased taxes for longtime residents who will be required to cover the costs of services required by the influx of new residents. Increased demands for municipal services such as new schools, roads, and police, are inevitable in growth areas. Development of rural communities also typically results in loss of a community’s rural heritage and character, loss of rural industries like farming, and loss of the State’s natural resources.

Don’t allow a few misguided politicians, with the false promise of economic benefits, end the preservation of our region’s natural heritage.

VOTE YES - FOR OPEN SPACE ON NOV. 2nd

There are referendum questions on the November 2 ballot this year that are very important for preserving open space in our area. Gloucester County is asking residents to approve an increase in the county farmland preservation and open space & recreation tax from 1¢ per $100 of assessed property value to 3¢. This increase will generate $3.4 million dollars in much-needed revenue. With the current funding, Gloucester County cannot afford to acquire even a quarter of the lands that are important for habitat protection and recreation. Nor can it fund acquisition of development rights on all the farms that have applied for preservation, let alone on any additional ones. This increase is imperative, especially because Gloucester County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the entire U.S.

Four Gloucester municipalities have land preservation trust initiatives on the ballot, too. Deptford Township is hoping that voters will approve the establishment of an open space & recreation tax. Three Gloucester townships are seeking increases. Franklin Township is asking voters to approve a 2¢ increase, for example. With revenues of only about $75,000/year at the 1¢ level, a modest increase such as this will enable Franklin to promote open space and farmland preservation in a proactive manner. That’s true for Mantua and Harrison Townships, which also have proposals on the ballot.

Please vote “yes” for both the Gloucester County increase and any establishment or increase of the funding in your municipality. Our towns and county are in a race to preserve land and cannot compete without adequate funding!
FEDERATION OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY WATERSHEDS

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Calendar of Events

NJ Landscape Project
Friday, Nov. 5th, 1-3pm
NJ Fish & Wildlife training
session on the endangered and
threatened species habitats.
Cumberland Co College
www.njfishandwildlife.com/
ensphone.htm

All About Owls:
Workshop & Field Trip
Saturdays Nov. 6th & Dec. 4th,
12-5pm
Center for Research &
Education in Goshen
Spaces are limited
(609) 861-0700 ext. 11

Explore Cape May National
Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, Nov. 7th, 9-1pm
Cape May Bird Observatory
Advance registration is required
(609) 861-0700 ext. 11

Herb Society of America &
Country Garden Club
Scholarship Dinner & Garden
Program
Sunday, Nov. 7th
Massos Catering, Glassboro
Lorraine@tripleokks.com
856-694-3693

Down Jersey - Celebrating
Our Sense of Place
curriculum guide & resource kit
of Southern NJ's Delaware
Bayshore
Friday, Nov. 12th 9-3pm
Cumberland County Improvement
Authority, Millville
Space is limited
crabbeathayy@comcast.net
732-262-8624

Celebration of John
McPhee's: The Pine Barrens
Tuesday, Nov. 16th, 7pm
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Millville Public Library

Restoration of Urban/
Suburban Green Space
Wednesday, Nov. 18th
Society for Ecological
Restoration/Schuykill
Center for
Environmental Education
215-482-7300x11

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

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

FEDERATION & SJLT
Annual Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 11th, 7 PM
EIRC, Delsea Drive & Hollydell Ave.,
Washington Twp.
856-478-2264

WHO'S LIVING IN OUR STREAMS
AND LAKES?

THE FASCINATION OF FISH

What exactly is a minnow? Is there really a difference in mouth size between a large-mouth and a small-mouth bass? What's been documented about the fishes of our region and state, and what is yet to be discovered?

This program by Stockton University Professor and Vertebrate Zoologist, Rudolf Arndt, will acquaint you with the interesting fish species that are part of New Jersey's aquatic biodiversity, introduce you to their habitats, habits, and characteristics and, as fishermen already know, convince you that fishes are fascinating!

For more info www.sjwaterheds.org
(856) 358-8960

Your Local Nature Center

We highly recommend a visit to Scotland Run Nature Center, on Academy Ave. at Fries Mill Rd. in Clayton. It’s beautiful year-round, but especially in the fall. Members of the Federation and SJLT had the pleasure of a special tour of the park led by naturalist Jill Taylor, as part of the Membership Dessert Party on August 26th. This experience was followed by a feast of desserts contributed by members, lots of good conversation and good fun all around. Call 881-0845 for park information and a schedule of special programs.

The Federation is mailing information to area businesses as a way to introduce ourselves. Do you have a business contact to share with us?
It is a pleasure to report that the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association has awarded a second-year grant to the Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds and its member watershed associations. This $10,000 funding is from the Stony Brook–Millstone’s Watershed Institute Grants Program. This second grant will help to sustain the successes that were achieved in membership growth, community recognition, and educational outreach during the previous year.

The current grant will fund a project entitled Stepping Up Watershed Protection in Gloucester County. The project includes increased educational programming through presentations of the new Teacher’s Guide to the Watersheds of Gloucester County in classrooms and at conferences. The grant also assists the Federation’s community events program by continuing to fund the part-time Outreach Coordinator position. In addition, the Federation and its member watershed groups are at an important crossroads regarding long-term stability and growth. A portion of the grant funds will help pay for a consultant in strategic planning so that the organizations can review current structure, determine program priorities, and decide upon their long-term future. At the conclusion of the grant project, the Federation and its members will have additional capacity to develop programs that improve the health of the environment around us and that provide greater opportunities for partnerships with other stakeholders throughout Gloucester County.

The first annual Wine & Cheese Tasting at Heritage Winery on October 2 was a smashing success. Favorable comments were heard from many who attended. There were at least six different types of wine to taste, delicious cheese from DeBruno’s, and fruit and desserts to sample in combination with the wine. The raffle baskets were admired by all. Filled with contributed items and gift certificates from businesses, restaurants, and other sources (listed below), the baskets were organized by themes such as birds, pets, gardening, seashore, wine, tea, coffee, sports, holiday, museums, children & family, hair & beauty, and cooking & dining. The silent art auction was big hit, too. Attendees bid on some wonderful contributed artwork including pottery, pen & ink drawings, and photographs by Robert Baum, Annie Smith, Jimi Black, Steve Eisenhauer, Michael Hogan, and Susan Morgan. Stay tuned for next year’s date and join in with other Federation members at the second annual Wine & Cheese Tasting.

We would like to thank all the donors to the raffle baskets and silent auction.

A complete list of addresses is available at www.sijwatersheds.org

Adelphi Restaurant  DeBears & Co.  Joanne’s Hallmark
Applebee’s  Dick’s Sporting Goods  Kangaroo’s Pouch
Artists’ Gallery  Don’s Bagels  Leaming’s Run Gardens
Atlantic Coast Gymnastics  East End Salon  Linder’s Valley Essentials
BBS Photography  Eleven East Café & Ever green Book Store  for Bath, Body and Soul
B.J.’s Wholesale Club  Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
The Barbershop  Franklinville Inn
Bartram’s Garden  Garden State Discovery Museum
Big Daddy’s Famous Crab Cakes  Hair It!
Blaise’s Deli  Hair Sensations
Bottino’s Supermarket  Harrison House
Brunswick Zone Bowling  Heart In Hand Pottery Studio
Carrabba’s Italian Grill  Historic Cold Springs Village
Coniglio Chiropractor  Hunan East Chinese
Curves  Jake’s Italian Restaurant
Déjà vu Antique & Gifts Gallery  Pinney Hollow Creations
Debears & Co.  Pizza Hut
Dick’s Sporting Goods  Please Touch Museum
Don’s Bagels  Powerhouse Gym
East End Salon  Red Lobster
Eleven East Café & Ever green Book Store  Ruth’s Hallmark
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge  Scott Arboretum
Franklinville Inn  Starbucks Coffee
Garden State Discovery Museum  Super G
Hair It!
Hair Sensations
Harrison House
Heart In Hand Pottery Studio
Historic Cold Springs Village
Hunan East Chinese
Jake’s Italian Restaurant
Outback Steakhouse
Pasta Pomodoro
Pegasus Restaurant
Penelope’s Tea Room
Pep Boys
Pet Place
Picture Perfect Framing

Pinney Hollow Creations
Pizza Hut
Please Touch Museum
Powerhouse Gym
Red Lobster
Ruth’s Hallmark
Scott Arboretum
Starbucks Coffee
Super G
Talluto’s
Taylor’s Salon
Tomasello Winery
Val’s Seafood
Village Bagels
Wheaton Village
White Oaks Country Club
Wild Birds Unlimited
Winterthur Museum
NEWLY PUBLISHED TEACHER’S GUIDE

The Federation is proud to announce the publication of *A Teacher’s Guide to the Watersheds of Gloucester County*. This free resource guide for teachers was produced for the Federation and Rowan University by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Both Rowan and the Federation received grant funding for the *Teacher’s Guide*. For the Federation, this was part of the 2003-04 Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association’s Watershed Institute grant. Additional support came from the Tri-County Water Quality Management Board of DVRPC.

Contents of the 130-page, full-color *Teacher’s Guide* include descriptions and maps of all of Gloucester’s watersheds, brief natural and human history sections, a chapter on sources of drinking water, a detailed explanation of the threats to both surface and ground water, a section on what students (and citizens) can do to protect the watersheds, extensive teacher resource information, and a glossary. The Appendix includes eight lessons and activities for the classroom.

Members of the Advisory Committee for the project and members of the Federation will be helping to distribute the *Guide* through conference presentations and interaction with specific schools. Rowan University and the Federation both have scheduled some in-class programs to introduce the *Guide* directly to teachers and their students in Gloucester County.

The *Teacher’s Guide* was developed for teachers of upper elementary and middle school classes, especially teachers of 4th through 8th grades, although the information in the *Guide* will be useful at all grade levels, including high school. The printed *Guide* is free to Gloucester County teachers. It is also available online and may be downloaded free of charge from the DVRPC website at www.dvrpc.org.

THE BALD EAGLE

The Bald Eagle was officially declared the National Emblem of the United States by the Second Continental Congress in 1782. Bald Eagles are about 29 to 42 inches long and have a wing span of 6 to 8 feet, which makes them one of the largest birds in North America. They live near large bodies of water such as lakes, marshes, seacoast, and rivers where there are plenty of fish to eat and tall trees for nesting and roosting. Bald eagles feed on fish but also eat small animals such as ducks, rats, muskrats, turtles, rabbits, snakes, and occasionally carrion (dead animals). Bald Eagles can fly at speeds of about 65 mph and up to 150 mph in a dive.

The female, who is larger than the male in size, lays 1 to 3 eggs in the springtime. Duties are shared by both parents until the young are strong enough to fly at about 12 weeks of age. The feathers of newly hatched bald eaglets are light gray and turn dark brown before they leave the nest. The distinctive white head and tail feathers do not appear until the eagles are about 4 to 5 years old. Their beak and eyes turn yellow during the fourth or fifth year. Like most raptors, eggs hatch in sequence instead of altogether as with smaller birds. This helps to assure that at least one chick – the first hatched – will survive if it is not a good feeding year, since that chick will be able to take most of the limited food. In a good year, the second and third hatching chicks can get enough food and may also survive.

At one time, the bald eagle bred extensively over North America. It began to decline during the 20th century due to habitat loss and hunting. After World War II, bald eagles in the lower 48 states slid close to extinction due to the use of the pesticide called DDT. This chemical caused thinning of raptor egg shells and breakage during incubation. With the elimination of DDT and the active restoration efforts of fish and wildlife programs during the past 30 years, the bald eagle has made an excellent recovery. It was upgraded from endangered to threatened status in 1995 and has been named as one of 25 candidates that may be removed from the endangered/threatened list in the next year.

Bald Eagles are found nesting in a number of areas in Gloucester County and can be seen hunting near all the rivers and streams in the county. Keep watching and you will certainly see one.
In the summer of 2004 the State Legislature passed the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (P.L. 2004, C. 120), heralded as one of the most significant environmental laws enacted in the last 25 years. Soon thereafter the legislature passed the “Fast Track” bill. This bill - (P.L. 2004, C. 89), widely considered the most regressive environmental legislation in New Jersey in the last 25 years - expedites state agency permitting in large areas of the state without adequate standards, public input, or opportunities for appeal. The law will be spelled out in future regulations. The environmental community has mounted a spirited and multifaceted attack on the bill, first urging the governor to veto the measure - an effort that failed - then taking legal action and urging legislative and regulatory remedies by the state to repeal the law or modify its effects.

The Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic is preparing a challenge to the legislation on behalf of the environmental community and environmental organizations are working at the state agency level to soften the impact of this misguided law as the State adopts implementing regulations. There is also a strong grass roots effort to get the law repealed or amended. Call your state legislator to complain and to ask that this law be repealed! And stay tuned. If you want more detailed information go to the Save New Jersey website at www.savenj.net.

State Plan Map
Can be downloaded at www.nj.gov/dca/osp/