



In Your Backyard

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“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

~Aldo Leopold

Area Schools Celebrated Arbor Day

During the months of April to June, the District Education Coordinator visited eleven area schools and gave Arbor Day/Forestry presentations to over 1,500 students. Over 600 tree seedlings were distributed to 3rd grade students, and 24 native two-year-old trees were handed out to schools to plant for Arbor Day.

The Arbor Day presentations focused on the importance of trees, why Arbor Day was founded, and how trees benefit our lives.

The Gloucester Soil Conservation District donated botanical signs to schools who planted a tree for Arbor Day.

Basswood and River Birch trees were donated by Pineland’s Nursery in Columbus, NJ. Seedlings were donated by the Forest Resource Education Center, New Jersey Forest Tree Nursery in Jackson.



Photos: From top left: Bells Elementary School, River Birch; Logan Elementary students measure a tree using a Biltmore stick; Woodbury Heights Elementary School plant a River Birch in memory of a teacher; Chestnut Ridge Middle School Environmental Club students plant a Basswood tree; Guardian Angels Regional School students stand around the Basswood tree (Arbor Day).

Upcoming Teacher Workshops - Save the Date!

Bring ‘em Outdoors Workshop

August 25, 2006 9am-12pm. Free
Scotland Run Park Nature Center, Clayton, NJ.

This workshop focuses on how teachers can use the outdoors as a classroom. A playground or even a vacant lot can teach students to appreciate the wonders of nature. The workshop will provide easy lessons, handouts and activities that teachers can use in and out of the classroom.

Workshop will take place outdoors, please dress appropriately.

This workshop is free, but you must register. To register, please contact Christina at (856) 589-5250 or by email: christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org

Workshop sponsored by Gloucester Soil Conservation District, South Jersey Land & Water Trust, Gloucester Co. Parks and Recreation, Scotland Run Park Nature Center

Wild School Sites Workshop

October 13, 2006 9am to 3pm Cost: \$20.00
Scotland Run Park Nature Center, Clayton, NJ

Back by popular demand!

Are you interested in creating a wildlife habitat on your school campus? NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife WILD School Sites Workshop provides educators with the opportunity to learn how to create a school habitat site, attract wildlife, and use the wildlife habitat site as a teaching tool. Many of the activities used in WILD School Sites meets some of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Workshop attendees receive the “Homes for Wildlife” book, a native plant, grant information. Lunch will be provided.

For More Information, Contact Christina at (856) 589-5250.

Clearview Regional High School Competes in the 2006 Envirothon Competition



The 2006 New Jersey Envirothon was held on May 13th at the Quail Hill Scout Reservation in Manalapan, NJ. 43 teams from high schools across New Jersey competed to win college scholarships and a chance to go to Manitoba, Canada for the Canon Envirothon (National Competition).

The Envirothon is a national environmental competition that challenges 9-12 graders in different natural resource-related topics, including aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils, and a current environmental issue. The theme for the 2006

event was: "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate." Clearview Regional High School (Mullica Hill) was the only team that competed from Gloucester County. With only three team members, and their first time competing, the team placed 19th out of 43 teams!! As a first year team, they were also congratulated for placing first (for new teams) in the Wildlife category. They did an excellent job!

For more information about the Envirothon Competition, visit the NJ Envirothon website at: <http://nj.nacdn.org/envirothon/>

CONSERVATION WINNERS

The Spring issue of *In Your Backyard*, listed all the Poster and Bumper Sticker contest winners for Gloucester Co. Shown left are pictures of some of our proud winners.

The District received many Poster and Bumper Sticker entries from schools all across Gloucester Co. for the 2006 Conservation Poster and Bumper Sticker contest. There were many great entries and the judges had a hard time choosing the winners.

We appreciate all your entries and hard work!



From Left: Morgan Durham, Stephanie Stevenson, Anthony Kingsley, Kathryn Pepe, Justin McCartney, Jerrell Richardson, Gabrielle Griffis
Herma S. Simmons Elementary School W.C.K. Walls School Guardian Angels Regional School



From Left: Alec Hanselman, Brandon Costa, Valentina DeRosa, Charles Green, Brandy Domanick, Tiffany Young, Gina Maccarone, Andre Ouellette
Orchard Valley Middle School St. Catherine of Sienna School Paulsboro High School



Digital Photo Contest



The Gloucester Soil Conservation District is sponsoring a Digital photo contest, and any age is welcome to apply. Deadline is December 1, 2006.

Photo Contest Rules

- 1.) Photo Must be taken in Gloucester County.
- 2.) Photo should depict the beauty and uniqueness of Gloucester County through subjects such as agriculture, wildlife, landscapes, waterscapes, or people interacting with the environment.
- 3.) Please include information about the photo such as township, landmark, or address.
- 4.) Only one digital photo entry per applicant.
- 5.) Photo must be taken digitally.
- 6.) **Contest Deadline is December 1, 2006.**
- 7.) Only one First, Second, and Third place winner.

*Winner may choose to receive a gift certificate to either Duffield's Farm Market, Heritage Station, or Triple Oaks Nursery. 1st Place- \$35.00 gift certificate • 2nd Place- \$25.00 gift certificate • 3rd Place- \$15.00 gift certificate

Please **email** entries to:

christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org

Please type "Digital Photo Contest Entry" in subject line. Please include your name and address in the email along with information about the photo (see rules at left)

** No entries will be accepted by mail. Entries will only be accepted via email.** A email confirmation will be sent to you once we receive your entry.

Questions? Please contact Christina at (856)589-5250. Visit our website at: www.gloucesterscd.org

We look forward to your participation!

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Courses For Contractors and Designers

Soil Erosion For Designers September 19, 20, 21, 2006

8:00 am-4:00 pm One discounted fee: \$375.00
2.4 Continuing Education Units (CEU)
Rowan University Student Center Ballroom

This two-day lecture and one-day field course is designed to introduce beginners and refresh professionals on site design within the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.

In this course, you will learn to:

- Prepare erosion control plans
- Determine off-site stability
- Calculate state-wide peak rate reductions
- Evaluate stability with respect to 300' buffer requirements
- Choose vegetative and structural controls
- Develop sediment and detention basins
- Perform a channel stability analysis
- Design riprap and conduit outlet protection
- Use NRCS hydrology and hydraulics methodology
- Become a low impact designer
- Use the DELMARVA Unit Hydrograph
- Implement Best Management Practices
- Gain knowledge of erosion control installation
- Become familiar with NRCS New Soil Survey

Who Should Attend?

- Environmental Consultants • SCD and NRCS personnel
- Landscape Architects and Planners • Civil and Env. Engineers
- Soil Scientists; Resource Conservationists • Watershed Assoc.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Soil Erosion For Contractors October 30 & 31, 2006

8:00 am – 4:00 pm One discounted fee: \$180.00
1.6 Continuing Education Units (CEU)
Rowan University Student Center Ballroom

This one-day lecture and one half-day field course is designed to introduce beginners and refresh professionals on design, installation, and maintenance of soil erosion and sediment control measures. In this course you will learn to:

- Utilize Sediment and Erosion Control Plans
- Become a low impact development contractor
- Gain an understanding of the law
- Obtain soil information
- Understand vegetation standards
- Explore sediment basin construction and maintenance
- Discover proper maintenance practices for erosion controls
- Implement NJDEP Best Management Practices

Who Should Attend?

- Landscape Cont. • Excavators • Builders • Construction Cont.
- Onsite Engineers • Field Personnel • SCD and NRCS personnel

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Questions?
Contact Kathy Urbano at:
(856) 256-5309



To Register

Online at: www.rowan.edu/engineering

Telephone: Kathy Urbano at (856) 256-5309

Mail: Rowan University, College of Engineering
Outreach Office, Kathy Urbano
201 Mullica Hill Rd.
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Punch Line



Two robins were sitting in a tree.
"I'm really hungry", said the first one. "
Me, too", said the second.
"Let's fly down and find some lunch."
They flew to the ground and found a
nice plot of plowed ground full of worms.
They ate and ate and ate 'til they could
eat no more.
"I'm so full I don't think I can fly
back up to the tree," said the first one.
"Me neither, let's just lay here and
bask in the warm sun", said the second.
"OK" said the first.
They plopped down, basking in the sun.
No sooner than they had fallen asleep,
a big tomcat snuck up and gobbled them up.
As he sat washing his face after his meal,
he thought, "I love baskin' robins."

Join Our Mailing List!

If you would like to receive a copy of the
Gloucester Soil Conservation District Quarterly
Newsletter, *In Your Backyard*, please send an email
with your name and address to:

christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org.

Please type "add to mailing list" in subject line.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list,
please send an email with your name and address to:

christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org.

Please type "remove from mailing list" in subject line.



Gloucester County Soil Conservation District

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Kids Enjoyed Wildlife Scavenger Hunt at District's Booth Water Fest 2006



Searching for bugs, reptiles, and amphibians is such fun for kids, but is not always easy to do.

Many kids search in their backyard, looking for frogs, turtles, and even snakes, only to

be disappointed when their search results in only finding earthworms, grubs, and the occasional spider. The Gloucester Soil Conservation District set up a backyard conservation display at the 2006 Water Fest, held at Scotland Run Park in Clayton, NJ. The display consisted of many native plants, shrubs, and trees that can be planted in your yard to attract various wildlife.

In the display, many "critters" were hidden amongst the plants. These "critters" included a snake, turtle, ladybugs, butterflies, a hummingbird, and a toad. The kids were given booklets containing a scavenger hunt page, which they used to find the "critters" hidden in the garden. The booklet also gave information about the habitats of each "critter" and what you can do to attract them to your yard or garden. This way, when kids go on a scavenger hunt in their own backyards, they will be thrilled to find a toad who has made a home under an upside down clay pot, a

turtle who is basking on a rock in your garden, and butterflies that are sipping the nectar from the butterfly-attracting native plants that were planted in the garden.



The District's display attracted approx. 250 children who received a prize for participating in the display. Materials were available for interested citizens, educating on what homeowners can do to attract wildlife to their backyard.

Also distributed was the "Backyard Conservation" booklet, which educates on how to bring conservation from the countryside to your backyard. (see photo, top right). If you would like a copy of the booklet, please send an email to: christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org or stop in the office to pick up a copy along with many other helpful publications.

If you would like the District Education Coordinator to present at your local civic group, youth group, or other event, please contact Christina at: (856) 589-5250.

