



# NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

April 2010

Volume 3, Number 4

New Jersey Friends of  
Clearwater

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## Meetings:

**Sunday, April 11-@  
2pm General Meeting,  
Eatontown  
Community Center**

**Monday, April 19-  
@7pm Environmental  
Cmte Meeting,  
Cobblestone  
Restaurant,  
Eatontown**

**PLEASE NOTICE!  
BOD MEETINGS WILL  
NOW BE ON 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TUESDAY OF ALL  
MONTHS**

**Tuesday, April 27-  
@7pm BOD Meeting,  
Cobblestone  
Restaurant,  
Eatontown**

## Henry Hudson Trail Cleanup by Tim Johnson

New Jersey Friends of Clearwater picked a beautiful day on Saturday, March 20th to conduct its first environmental cleanup for 2010. The weather was sunny and pleasantly warm when members of the New Jersey Friends of Clearwater showed up in Keansburg, New Jersey, to clean up a portion of the Henry Hudson Trail. Starting from Main Street, our team first worked the trail going west. There was no shortage of garbage to pick up and our crew did a good job separating the recyclables from the rest of the garbage.



We switched to cleaning up the trail east of Main Street so that both sides of the trail would look clean when viewed from Main Street. Special thanks to our crew, Ray, Joellen, Mike, Tim, and

Marilyn for making this clean-up successful and for giving up part of a beautiful weekend to make this happen. Another "thank you" to Ray for making arrangements for the clean up, for treating our crew to breakfast after the clean up and for bringing the recyclables to the Recycling Center.

## Join Clearwater For Our Important Earth Day Events

- April 7: Wakefern Sustainability Fair, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Wakefern Food Corp., Plaza 7 Facility, 33 Northfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837
- April 8: Fort Monmouth BRAC Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting, 7pm, Gibbs Hall, Tinton Ave, Fort Monmouth (public accessible); Discussion of contaminated sites and their effects on surrounding towns and workers.
- April 17: NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF) Conference, 9 am - 5 pm) at Rutgers University Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ; Workshop topics include: Sustainability And The Green Movement; Power, Politics And The Environment; 21st Century Water; Toxic Substance Control Act Reform; Green Economy And Green Jobs; Healthy Schools/Healthy Towns; Climate Change; How To Develop While Protecting The Environment And Economy; And Youth Activism.
- April 18: St Mary's Environmental Expo, 8:45 am to 1 pm in the Parish Hall of St. Mary's RCC, Phalanx Rd & Rt 34, Colts Neck, NJ
- April 20: Wakefern Sustainability Fair, 11:30 - 1:30 PM, Wakefern Food Corp., General Merchandise Facility, Jamesburg, NJ,
- April 24: EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, 331 Georgia Tavern Road, Howell
- April 24: Highlands Earth Day, Highland Community Center, 10am – 2pm

**Quarterly Fort Monmouth RAB Meeting April 8 2010—Time to Ask Hard Questions** by Ed Dlugosz

For more info on NJFC meetings go to:

[http://www.mcclearwater.org/calendar\\_New/calendar.php](http://www.mcclearwater.org/calendar_New/calendar.php)

Join us on Meetup:

<http://www.meetup.com/Clearwater-of-New-Jersey-Meetup-Group/>

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As reported last month, the Army signed the bogus Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) document on 5 February 2010. Contrary to previous denials that the FNSI was a RAB matter, it has magically been placed on the coming April 10<sup>th</sup> agenda. I urge everyone to join us to show the Government/Army representatives our disapproval of their FNSI. Two areas of major concern remain—that have not been addressed in any of the preceding Army assessments are health concerns to Fort Monmouth workers exposed to the contamination during the past 50+ years and the need for thorough downstream contaminated sediment testing affecting human and marine life of the Shrewsbury watershed.

Among the other topics to be presented and discussed at the RAB meeting are:

- the ongoing issues with the Work Plan scope and delay of the execution of Baseline Ecological Evaluation and remediation
- Progress of a new groundwater migration modeling effort by Brinkerhoff Environmental
- Underground Storage Tank (UST) Remediation
- Landfill Streambank Stabilization and Landfill Capping Status
- Vapor Intrusion detection status
- Other overall status of ongoing “restoration” efforts

The minutes of the last RAB Meeting of January will be placed on the NJFC website.

### Land “Rescued” by Clearwater to be Solar Energy site

by Jack Charlton



In 1987 Clearwater tackled the problem of an old Keyport landfill located on the edge of Raritan Bay at the mouth of Chingarora Creek. Bay waters were eroding into the edge of the old landfill releasing tons of trash, debris, and God knows what toxics. Clearwater took pictures of the mess directly to Chris Daggett, then Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, we were able to get a picture on the front page of the Asbury Park Press.

This two-pronged approach resulted in a rapid, high-priority, program to seal the edge of the landfill and correct this old but rapidly worsening condition. We were also able to identify and force correction of faults in their ground-water monitoring system.

Now, 23 years later, we are pleased to see plans moving forward to utilize the land for a 5 megawatt solar energy plant. A California company will build the \$25 million installation which will provide clean, green energy while also generating jobs and ratables for the borough. Clearly the town and the state must make sure that contamination concerns are addressed.

### Dr. Johnson’s Comments On The Climate Change Debate.

Dr. Nathaniel (Nat) Johnson, a lifetime member of the New Jersey Friends of Clearwater, is an Atmospheric Scientist who works at the International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) in Honolulu, Hawaii. This center pursues research on the nature and predictability of climate variations and change in the Asia-Pacific area (website: <http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu/>). Recently, Tim Johnson wrote to his son, asking Nat for his thoughts about “Climategate” and the resurgence of climate change deniers. We thought you might be interested in his comments below:

“Yes, I have heard quite a bit about the “Climategate” controversy with Phil Jones and the University of East Anglia. I don’t understand the details of the China

weather records. Perhaps some mistakes were made on his part, and maybe those mistakes weaken the arguments of that particular study. I'm not sure about the extent of negligence or willful wrongdoing, but my overall impression is that nothing in the hacked email scandal undermines the broad work that has been done regarding climate change. As you can expect, many things have been blown way out of proportion by the climate change deniers. It's a shame that the media is jumping onto these non-stories.

I find this whole climate change debate to be strange but interesting. It highlights the changing ways in which information is spread, and highlights the differences between science and politics. From a scientific perspective, these outspoken climate change deniers are powerless. Their arguments are weak, and their claims never would get past the peer review process because they are so flawed. The scientific consensus is not threatened by them. However, when it comes to policy, these deniers seem to have more power. The issue is politically charged, and people hold emotional and often irrational opinions. The deniers can escape the peer review process by writing Internet blogs, and their opinions can sound informed to those who are not experts in the field. Serious scientists have to waste their time trying to dispel the same myths over and over again. It's quite frustrating to see how ideology can trump logic and reason in this country and around the world. I have a feeling that our President is grappling with that same realization. A good Internet blog with informed discussions on climate change science is [realclimate.org](http://realclimate.org).

Even though climate is tied to large-scale, long-timescale processes, it seems like public perception is tied to short-term weather. This winter has been cold and snowy in much of the US and Europe even though the globe has been warm overall. I think the public is more inclined to jump on the climate change denial bandwagon when facing a harsh winter. I wonder if it will take an unusually mild season to get more public momentum for climate change policy.”

\* \* \* \*

### **World's First Compostable Chip Bag?**

Sun Chips, a division of Frito-Lay, markets their product in what they call the “world's first 100% compostable chip package”. According to their advertising, it is made from more than 90% renewable, plant based materials and it breaks down completely into compost. Since most plastics are made from fossil fuels, this offers the potential for cutting our use of such fuels and ultimately reducing the litter along our roadsides. But are the claims true? And, more important, does the resulting compost contain components which are harmful to the environment?

NJFC is trying to define tests to resolve these two questions. If you purchase Sun Chips we would appreciate it if you would save the bag for us for possible study. Empty bags can be brought to any meeting, or call 732 870-2232 and we will try to arrange for pick-up.

### **Festival Committees Reforming**

The NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival is our annual open-air environment, music and arts festival celebrating the spirit of people working and singing together for the environment. The finest in music and dance combines with environmental activism to celebrate our waterways. We need volunteers to plan and manage the upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Clearwater Festival through the following committees:

Site	Concessions	Peacekeeping
Entertainment	Environmental Activist	Recycling
Children's Area	Vendors	Construction
Environmental Action	Publicity	Roadies
Hospitality	Universal Access	

If you liked what you saw or would like to make a change, then volunteer by

Responding to: [ClearwaterFestival@mcclearwater.org](mailto:ClearwaterFestival@mcclearwater.org) or visit us at:

[http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/clearwater-festival/Volunteer\\_Form\\_Festival.pdf](http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/clearwater-festival/Volunteer_Form_Festival.pdf)

We are still looking for committee chair people to fill a few vacancies. Some of our usual suspects have stepped up to new, bigger challenges but they've left small voids that need to be filled.

## Help Needed For Festival Grants

It cost lots of money to put on a festival - substantially more than NJ Clearwater has available at present. Hence it is imperative that we raise additional funds from gifts and grants.

If anyone out there would be willing to make a gift to ensure the survival of this environmental education event it would be greatly appreciated. Any amount, no mater how small, will help - just mail a check marked "festival donation" to NJ Friends of Clearwater, PO Box 303, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Donations are tax deductible.

Over a dozen grant requests have been sent and we are hopeful, but, to date, no commitment have been received. Some fresh ideas and viewpoints would doubtless help, so if you would be willing to get involved with grant writing please contact us at [bjcharlton2@verizon.net](mailto:bjcharlton2@verizon.net).

Barbara and Jack Charlton

**EARTH DAY IS NOT JUST ONE DAY  
IT'S EVERY DAY!!  
LH (2010)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you would like to be removed from the NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter List

**Please e-mail Lynn ([newsletter@mcclearwater.org](mailto:newsletter@mcclearwater.org)) with the message: "Remove from NJ Clearwater Newsletter List" in the subject box**

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