



NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

July 2011

Volume 4, Number 7

New Jersey Friends of
Clearwater
P.O. Box 303
Red Bank, New Jersey
07701

NEW: Clearwater Hotline:
732-784-8547
e-mail:
info@mcclearwater.org

Website:
www.mcclearwater.org

Upcoming NJFC Events
Sunday, August 1
General Meeting, 2PM
Eatontown Community Ctr
72 Broad Street,
Eatontown

Sunday, July 17, 8:30AM
Environmental Cmte Mtg.,
Cobblestone Restaurant,
Eatontown

Board Mtg 7pm/
Festival Mtg 8pm,
Wednesday, July 20,
25 Peters Pl, Red Bank

Circle of Song Sing-Along
July 21, 6:30pm,
United Methodist Church,
Grand Ave, Asbury Park

For more info on NJFC
meetings go to:
http://www.mcclearwater.org/calendar_New/calendar.php

Article Deadline for the
June issue of NJFC
Newsletter is Monday,
July 25, 2011

Email your articles to
newsletter@mcclearwater.org

By the deadline stated
above, please use the
phrase "MC Clearwater
article" in the subject of
your e-mail

Lineup Announced for the 36th Annual NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival at Asbury Park, NJ

Time	Main Stage	Time	Acoustic Stage
11:00 AM	Mary McCrink	11:00 AM	Danny Alderman
12:00 PM	O'Neill & Martin	12:00 PM	Ron Francis, Dork of Deception
1:00 PM	The Amboys		
2:00 PM	The Wag	1:00 PM	TBA
3:00 PM	Matt O'Ree	2:00 PM	Kathy Moser
4:00 PM	Matt Wade	3:00 PM	Virago
5:00 PM	Jo Wymer Band	4:00 PM	Chuck Schaeffer
6:00 PM	Circle of Song Singers	5:00 PM	Spook Handy

"Down with Sea Level Rise, Stop Climate Change!"

The NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival musical lineup for the Main and Acoustic stages has been announced for the 36th Annual Environmental and Music Festival. The Festival, known as the largest environmental and music festival in the state, has booked a wide variety of music genres from Rock'n'Roll and Folk to Bluegrass and Gospel. Children Performers, playing early at the Acoustic Stage, will be magician Robert Francis, the Dork of Deception and member and entertainer Danny Alderman. Our Festival also hosts the popular, round-robin sing-along Circle of Song music venue led by our own singer-songwriter, Ingrid Heldt. Festival-goers are invited to participate—bring your instruments and voices. We have many, and invite additional environmental activist organizations to table and educate our festival-goers. Green vendors, arts & craft vendors, and food vendors are also welcome to apply.

4th Annual NJ Environmental Justice Roundtable: 2:00pm

EA Director Ed Dlugosz will host urban and workplace leaders from around NJ who will discuss environmental issues disproportionately affecting the young, poor & people of color.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!!

Come To Remaining Festival Meetings - Weekly Starting July 20th!! Join A Committee--Check Our Website Events & Calendar Pages.

Volunteers can sign up for as little as 2 hours or for the whole day or anywhere in between. We need volunteers to support all aspects of the Festival to include:

- Stage Hands
- Peace Keepers
- Childrens' Arts & Crafts
- Hospitality
- Handicapped Access
- Recycling
- Membership
- NJFC T-shirt & Materials Concession Stand

We need roadies to set up and breakdown the site on Friday prior to the Festival and on Sunday morning after the festival. We also need volunteers to help us plan and carry out all the preparations that make our Festival the biggest Environmental-Music Festival in NJ. Please contact us by calling or writing us to:

Attn: Volunteer Chairperson, Lynn Humphrey

Email: lynn22353@yahoo.com

732-872-784-8547 or PO Box 303, Red Bank, NJ 07701

For further information:

<http://www.mcclearwater.org/festival.php>



NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival is Handicapped Accessible

Stages and COS areas are supported by ASL interpreters and all areas are marked for special access needs.



Newsletter Information
Editorial Committee:
Ed Dlugosz, Lynn
Humphrey

If any of the links do
not work, cut and paste
the full URL into the
address box.

Join as NJFC MEMBER

NJFC Membership
Info:

www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm

Board of Directors
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Secretary: TBA
Ed Dlugosz
Jim Franchi
Andrea Spinelli
Marylin Johnson
George Moffatt
Ingrid Heldt

Fort Monmouth Environmental Contamination: The Army Just Doesn't Get It

By Ed Dlugosz

At the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting held July 7, the Army at Fort Monmouth presented to the public the unwelcome but not unexpected results of the Baseline Ecological Evaluation (BEE) Report. As expected, all results were rosy and the summary sheet revealed that the 23 contaminated areas cited in the study needed no further investigation and that they had no impact on the ecology. However, the Army came to this conclusion by using a reporting format that makes a strange distinction between the environment and the ecology. The environment includes humans and their health but ecology doesn't!?! The Army just doesn't get it; people are part of nature. I guess they've never heard of the food web.

For over three years Clearwater and our activist colleagues were told that the BEE would continue the testing and provide a triage strategy to remediate the problems posed by terrible results provided in the Phase 2 Environmental Condition of the Property (ECP2). The ECP2 detailed an additional 27 contaminated parcels, up from the original 43 sites. We weren't provided a rationale for studying only 23 sites. Much like the 2009 FM Environmental Assessment (EA) the BEE did not address the many human health issues that activists had demanded from this study, i.e., extensive downstream sediment heavy metal testing (after over 60 years of pollution) including Wampum Lake, more vapor intrusion testing, historical human health impacts to soldiers and civilians, etc.

Review of the BEE prior to the July 7th presentation brought a myriad of questions including a whole new vocabulary that included terms like COPEC and ESC¹. We were introduced to a new set of equations which allowed mitigation of impact by averaging and looking at background in similar types of soils and conditions. Because of this confusion, I sent a copy of my questions to the Army for explanation. I was told that I would that the concepts would be explained during the meeting. Nothing in the text of the BEE prepared me for the meeting's revelation that:

- "Human Health-based criteria was not used"
- "Chronic criteria [was] used instead of acute criteria"
- "Lowest Effects Levels (Effects Range Low) used instead of Probable or Severe Effect Levels (Effects Range Median)"

Clearwater will continue to review and comment upon the BEE Report in light of these revelations and provide comments to the Army. The report has not yet been approved by the NJDEP, who at a subsequent meeting of the FMERA², agreed to review our written comments for possible inclusion in their prior to issuing their judgment.

In other RAB discussions, we learned that Wanda Green will probably remain as the lead Army POC and that others will be named for the continuation of the RAB mission beyond the closing of FM on 15 September 2011.

Traveling Environmental Fair Reaches at Least 2,500 Students

By George Moffatt, TEF Director

The Traveling Environmental Fair (TEF), a centerpiece of the N.J. Friends of Clearwater's environmental advocacy program, reached about 500 grammar school students in three schools this spring semester, plus about 2,000 youngsters at the "Ocean Fun Day" at Sandy Hook.

The TEF program, a series of one-hour presentations that were held at Cove Avenue School in Hazlet, Memorial School in Union Beach, and the Center School in Keyport, includes an introduction to New Jersey's land, air and water problems; the critical role plankton play in the food chain; the ocean's role in maintaining the atmosphere's oxygen levels through photosynthesis and generating fresh water through the "water cycle;" and the adverse impact unnecessary land-based nutrients

¹ COPEC = Contaminants Of Potential Ecological Concern, and ESC = Ecological Screening Criteria.

have on New Jersey's coastal waters.

Students then were cycled through three hands-on, interactive stations. One deals with the pollution threats to a wide variety of marine life in Raritan Bay and other estuaries, featuring a fish tank with live killies, crabs, snails, and a grumpy puffer fish. It also includes a generous sup



ply of less-than-live crab, clam, and mussel shells, egg casing, coral, and other beachcombing artifacts. Another station discusses how non-source (or multi-source pollution) can flow from streams, rivers, bays into oceans. The third station provides a study of live, fresh-water plankton under a microscope.

TEF was invited to five schools, but one failed to get back to us with proposed dates, and the other canceled because of insurance requirements. The teachers and administrators at the other schools had nothing but praise for the program. We hope to visit four to five schools during the fall semester.

We benefited from several experienced instructors: Jodi Vergilio, an instructor at Brookdale Community College's Ocean Institute, a community outreach marine program based at Sandy Hook; Patrick Vansaghi, a student at BCC's Science Field Station at Sandy Hook who has taught TEF for several semesters; Paula Phillips, who has a degree in biology and recently concluded a teaching project at Kean College; and TEF director George Moffatt. Special thanks to Jack Charlton, who raises the zooplankton for the program, and Bob Macaluso, manager of the BCC Science Field Station at Sandy Hook, who helps provide instructors, storage space, and live marine specimens. (Alas, we owe him a starfish that was devoured by the puffer.)

The second phase of TEF's outreach was a tabling event at "Ocean Fun Day," an all-day outdoor exhibit of educational, environmental, and governmental organizations, plus "green" vendors, overlooking Raritan Bay at Sandy Hook. "Fun Day" usually attracts about 2,500 people, mostly youngsters, but this year, despite threatening weather, the event drew about 6,000 people – according to the event's sponsors-- at least half of who were students. Visitors to our TEF "Raritan Bay" exhibit sometimes stood several rows deep to view our fish tank full of live killies, crabs, snails, and that "killer" puffer fish, as well as our display of crab, clam, and mussel shells and other marine artifacts.

Youngsters at "Ocean Fun Day" learn about marine life – and pollution – in Raritan Bay. (Photo by Jack Charlton)

NJF Clearwater representatives President Joellen Lundy and George Moffat were augmented by stalwart semi-retired members Barbara and Jack Charlton, who publicized the Festival, and member emeritus Ray Cann.

"Fun Day," an established event run for years by the NJ Marine Sciences Consortium (now renamed the NJ Sea Grant Consortium), provides a great opportunity for NJF Clearwater to reach with little effort large numbers of children and their parents to instill the conservation ethic in our next generation of citizen leaders. This year's attendance figures indicate it is an exceptional program to educate youngsters, and we should plan now to take full advantage of it next year, as well.

Is the Legislature Playing "Pretend" in Banning Hydrofracking Shale Deposits for Oil?

Opponents of the environmentally damaging practice now sweeping the country of hydrofracking shale deposits for natural gas were delighted last week when the N.J. Legislature voted to ban the practice. The vote, 33 to 1 in the Senate and 51 to 11 in the Assembly, showed such a rare bi-partisan agreement so absent in today's political discourse that many environmentalists hoped New Jersey's politicians finally recognized that solving the state's pollution problems transcends partisan bickering.

We hope this is the case, but we're not sure. Gov. Christie, who has become increasingly hostile to the state's environmental problems, has yet to sign the bill. If he does, it will be a watershed event. But will he? Sen. Joseph M. Kyrollis Jr. did not vote on the bill but offered an amendment -- rejected by the Senate -- to ban hydrofracking for five years. But why would Kyrollis delay hydrofracking?

There is growing public anger over hydrofracking, which requires enormous amounts of water and a number of toxic chemicals that the frackers are not required by law to report. Vice President Dick Cheney accomplished this dodge while in office. These undisclosed chemicals pollute both underground and surface water supplies. This debacle is very hard for politicians to support, so we may be seeing a "pretend" vote where pro-development politicians duck citizens' ire by voting against hydrofracking, knowing that the governor will use his veto power to avoid an outright ban and force environmentally responsible politicians to accept Kyrollis' "compromise" that opens the door in five years.

The state of New Jersey deserves better. Until hydrofracking is absolutely safe, it must be banned. The first step would be to require complete disclosure of the chemicals they plan on indirectly pumping into our water supply.

Joellen Lundy, President
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Dennis Anderson, Chair
Jersey Shore (Monmouth) Group of the Sierra Club
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Response to the Sandy Hook Foundation

By George Moffatt

Fort Hancock is heating up again with, perhaps, a hotel its future. For 10 years, a battle centered on whether Fort buildings should be rehabilitated to attract for-profit commercial tenants - in a National Park, of all places. Fortunately, the Park Service's bungling attempt to be wannabe entrepreneurs fell flat on its face. Unfortunately, 36 years of National Park neglect have left the Army buildings in ruins.

Recently, the Sandy Hook Foundation press release waxed poetic about the future rehabilitation of Fort Hancock. It noted that the purpose of the Park Service is "... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein

and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." **True.**

Then the Foundation, which has rehabilitated several Fort buildings open to public use, said, "Federal courts have ruled more than once that preservation rather than recreational use is the prime directive for the National Park Service." **Half true.**

The Foundation continued "...in the case of Sandy Hook, complying with the primary mandate of preservation can be met without impairing its wonderful recreational opportunities." Then the Foundation's cat escaped the bag: "The federally designated National Historic Landmark area of Fort Hancock... comprises just 12.5% of all Sandy Hook acreage. Preservation would be limited to the buildings within this 12.5%." **Less true.**

The Foundation misinterprets the courts. They were talking about preserving the land and natural habitat against the destruction from such kamikaze recreation as all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, and even from benign pastimes such as swimming, hiking and fishing in environmentally sensitive areas. The court decisions dealt with preserving the land -- and not buildings -- from recreational mayhem.

In fact, there is no mandate to preserve or rehabilitate any buildings, a point once explained by one of Rep. Frank Pallone's D.C. staff experts on National Park issues.

So what's going on?

- At a January public meeting on Gateway, Foundation President Betsy Barrett told a few National Park officials that "we" should hold public hearings to get "our" views known to offset the negative publicity engendered by the Park Service's previous attempt at commercialization.
- Then the Park Service bizarrely announced that before it held two public meetings specifically about Fort Hancock, it would hold private planning meetings, but refused to reveal who was invited - perhaps part of Mrs. Barrett's "our" crowd? -or their recommendations.
- Both sets of meetings were announced by the Park Service, which is ostensibly in charge, and oddly by Mrs. Barrett, who isn't.
- Foundation claims that recreation won't be affected by any Fort development ignore the several hundred parking spaces already closed at North Beach that presumably were to be reassigned to the now-defunct commercialization plan.
- Ignoring its mission and court mandates on preserving the land - concepts clearly understood by most people -- the Park Service refused to conduct an environmental impact statement on its commercialization plan.

Apparently the Foundation is now pressing for another commercial drive-by, as it applauded the "...Park Service's efforts in exploring models used elsewhere in the National Park system..." Since a video at the Fort Hancock public meetings touting both The Presidio and Fort Baker as successful models influenced the discussions, the message is clear. Both organizations want a similar privatization plan for Fort Hancock. But isn't a monster hotel/conference center proposed on the parade grounds being fought by conservationists, and doesn't The Presidio require about \$20 million yearly in federal subsidies? And isn't public access severely limited at Fort Baker, Marin County, because few can afford the expensive hotel/conference center/spa - also originally planned on the parade grounds -- which was challenged in court by Sausalito?

Like Fort Hancock, these commercial ventures commandeering public lands have triggered public objections. But I fear the Park Service and, regrettably, the Foundation yearn for hotels. Instead, Fort Hancock's future should focus on non-profit organizations.

Quote of the Month

In honor of Fort Monmouth obfuscated BEE Report and the NJDEP's BEE *guidance*,
"When I choose a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less."