



NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

May 2011

Volume 4, Number 5

New Jersey Friends of
Clearwater
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Red Bank, New Jersey
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Upcoming NJFC Events

Sunday, May 1
General Meeting, 2PM
Eatontown Community Ctr
72 Broad Street,
Eatontown

Sunday, May 15, 8:30AM
Environmental Cmte Mtg.,
Cobblestone Restaurant,
Eatontown

Festival Mtg,
Tuesday, May 11,
25 Peters Pl, Red Bank

Circle of Song Sing-Along
May 19, 6:30pm,
United Methodist Church,
Grand Ave, Asbury Park

Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 25,
25 Peters Pl, Red Bank

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



36th Annual New Jersey Friends of Clearwater Festival

Saturday, August 20, 2011 - 11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunset Park, Sunset Ave & Main St, Asbury Park, NJ



This Year's Theme:

Climate Change: Rising Seas Closing In!



Environmental Justice Roundtable
Poor & Urban Issues Which Affect Us All
2pm

A DAY OF

**FOOD • MUSIC • &
ENVIRONMENTAL DISPLAYS**

UNDER THE SUN

Children's Area

- Award Winning Children's Performers:
Danny Alderman, Yosi, & Polka Dot
- Face Painting, Tie-Dyeing, Arts & Crafts
 - Butterfly Tent

Bring Your Own Blankets & Chairs
Handicapped Accessible



Co-Sponsored by
Saker Shop-Rites Inc.,
Wakefern, Inc.,
and many generous donors:
Free Admission
For Everyone

Main Music Stage

Matt O'Ree, Matt Wade
O'Neill and Martin, The Wag
The Amboys, Thomas Wesley Stern

Headliner TBA

Acoustic Stage

Spook Handy, Chuck Sheafer,
Kathy Moser, Mary McCrink



Circle of Song Stage

Ingrid Heldt, Mike Meade,
Marc Bodino, Carl Croce,
Rich Deans, Sharleen Leahey,
Kathy Moser, Joe Petraitis,
Isis Ra, Jan Christensen, Joe
Kaminsky, Eric Russell

For More Information:
www.mcclearwater.org/festival.php

NJEF Executive Director Briefs Clearwater on Statewide Issues

Amy Goldsmith, NJEF State Director, is a Red Bank resident and member of NJ Friends of Clearwater will brief NJFC at their monthly General Membership Meeting on May 1 at 2:00pm. Among the issues to be discussed are the Governors call for the "Waiver Rule", Hydraulic Fracturing, assault on the Northern Jersey's Highlands Protection Act, Environmental Justice, and others.

Article Deadline for the MAY issue of NJFC Newsletter is Monday, January 21, 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

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



Amy oversees all of New Jersey programs for NJEF and Clean Water Fund. She also serves on the Board of the NJ Work Environment Council, Earthshare New Jersey, Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment, New Jersey Policy Perspective, Fairness Alliance, NJ Working Families Alliance, Chairs the Coalition for Healthy Ports, founder of Newark-based Urban Environmental Institute, as well as serves as the governor's appointee to the NJDEP Clean Water Council.

From 1994-1997, served as the National Coordinator for the Public Health Institute's (PHI) Jobs and Environment Training Consortium. Until 2002, was a member of the National Just Transition Alliance Curriculum Writing Team and Training Logistics Coordinator-working directly with environmental justice leaders and workers to use popular education methods to bridge the communication and organizing gap between them. Before joining NJEF in mid-1992, Ms. Goldsmith directed Clean Water Action/Fund's New England programs for seven years. In this capacity she organized and led a variety of public campaigns around groundwater, pesticides, Boston Harbor cleanup and solid waste. Prior to joining the New England staff, she served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Nuclear Referendum Committee, which focused on radioactive waste management issues. In 2004, she received an Environmental Achievement Award from NJ Governor McGreevey. She has a B.S. in Land Use Planning from the University of Minnesota, and served for three years as a research scientist with the University of Minnesota's Entomology Department.

Clearwater Sponsors April Whale Pond Watershed Cleanups

By Ed Dlugosz

NJ Friends of Clearwater sponsored two Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association¹ (WPBWA) cleanups in the Whale Pond Brook Watershed on April 23. The afternoon's cleanup was a unique experience for a few hardy souls of the WPBWA. In order to clean up Ross Island on Lake Takanassee (see photo & upper left insert), we had to prune back the profuse cover of multi-flora rose brambles and other vines to uncover a fortress-like stone house. Lake Takanassee, formed by damming the WPB, is the culmination of the WPBW before it enters the ocean via a flume.



Members of the WPBWA working on project were Wayne Trester, Jim Kennedy of LB ACO, Faith Teitelbaum and Ceil Mancini of LBEC, Ed Dlugosz NJFC/EEC, and Jim Nickels of MU UCI who acted as ferryman from the shore to the island. Rather than further depiction of the cleanup by this author, the following article appeared in the Asbury Park Press with a full description and photo

¹ Clearwater is a founding member of WPBWA, which includes the Environmental Commissions of Eatontown, Ocean Township, Tinton Falls, West

Board of Directors
President: Joellen Lundy
VP: Ben Forest
Treasurer: Tim Johnson
Secretary: TBA
Ed Dlugosz
Jim Franchi
Andrea Spinelli
Marylin Johnson
George Moffatt
Ingrid Heldt

Continuing with our "Protect Our Watersheds" theme, we will do a regular cleanup of Ross Island on May 21, 9:30am meeting at Red Oaks Drive loop in West Long Branch. April 23 morning's cleanup of the Whale Pond/Cranberry Brooks was postponed to early June—date/time TBA—after a heavy rainstorm washout.

Whale Pond Brook Watershed gets Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning for a watershed

By Carol Gorga Williams; Photos by Doug Hood

Long Branch, NJ- 04/23/2011- As others spent Saturday making last-minute holiday preparations, a group of volunteers donned boots or hip waders, sturdy gloves and long-sleeved shirts to protect their arms from the brambles and braved not-quite spring weather to clean key areas of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed in eastern Monmouth County.

This was the fourth of such cleanups since the group formed - with New Jersey Friends of Clearwater the sponsor and organizer of the cleanups. The coalition includes the friends group along with the environmental commissions from Long Branch, West Long Branch, Ocean Township, Eatontown, Tinton Falls and Red Bank.

"One of the interesting things is no one else had claimed it," said Ed Dlugosz, head of the friends group and the Eatontown Environmental Commission about why the coalition was focusing on cleanup of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed. "Here it is, one of the prime ocean exits of the watershed and there is something on the order of eight to 10 oceanfront lakes and it is probably the least developed and offers the best chance for rehabilitation and for being a real spawning ground for herring and other game fish that spawn there and live their early lives there."

The watershed starts as Cranberry Brook in Tinton Falls, which meets with Whale Pond Brook - acting as the boundary between Eatontown and Ocean Township - then flows through West Long Branch and Monmouth University into Takanassee Lake in Long Branch until it empties into the Atlantic.

When the coalition considered other aspects of the watershed - such as Deal Lake and polluted lakes in Belmar, Asbury Park and Spring Lake, Dlugosz expressed confidence that Takanassee Lake where volunteers congregated on Ross Island Saturday - could be resurrected.



Ross Island Stone House—Before & After

Ross Island is located at the beginning of the Lake Takanassee portion of the Whale Pond Brook after it exits Monmouth University property, he said.

"The bottom line is this is probably the best chance anyone has to restore it to its natural state," said Dlugosz, who was joined Saturday by Long Branch Environmental Commission members Faith Teitelbaum and Ceil Mancini as well as representatives of Monmouth University, many of whom went by boat to the lake's inner island where volunteers removed brambles, grape vines and other overgrowth from the island's perimeter and a tiny stone cottage there. The work was in preparation of a more substantial cleanup on Ross Island scheduled for May 21.

"By placing a fish ladder there," said Dlugosz of the dam at Takanassee Lake, "we can turn back the hands of time and have a real natural state there. When they dammed it up as a reservoir, they stopped the spawning. Now that it is so brackish, it does not make sense to have it as a dammed-up lake."

Currently, dams and other construction make it impossible for herring and other fish to spawn, Dlugosz said.

A fish ladder is a series of pools on an incline - separated in a series of short steps - to enable fish like herring and striped bass to swim up past a dam or other impediment and successfully reproduce in the lake.

For the remainder of the story and a gallery of photos, please visit

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104260348>

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=B3&Date=20110427&Category=MULTIMEDIA02&ArtNo=304270012&Ref=PH&odyssey=mod|mostpopphotos>

The full text of the article will appear later at www.mcclearwater.org/news.php

Join Clearwater For Our Important Events

- May 14: 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 Landscapes; Moving the Green Agenda; Smarter, Greener, and Cleaner Opportunities; Healthy Schools/Healthy Towns; SAFER Chemicals/Healthy Families; NJDEP Transformation. Grassroots Leadership Awards: Including Environmental Partnership of MC for PFZ.
- May 21: Ross Island Cleanup
- June TBA Whale Pond & Cranberry Brooks Cleanup

Clearwater Takes Initiative on Contaminated Wampum Lake.

By Ed Dlugosz

Clearwater has recently submitted a proposal to the EPA for an Environmental Justice Small Grant (EJSG) to independently re-analyze the sediments and surface water that has contaminated Wampum Pond and upstream tributaries for over 50 years and to determine its exact source.

As has been reported in this newsletter and local newspapers, Fort Monmouth has disclosed that dozens of toxic substances including over 20 heavy metals, VOCs, and POLs are present in the surface water, its sediments, groundwater, and soil. While the Army generally takes responsibility for those toxins within the border of the post, it defiantly refuses to take responsibility for any of those same contaminants just downstream or outside its borders for fear of setting a precedent.

The ultimate purpose of NJ Friends of Clearwater's (NJFC) EJ Project is to have those toxins remediated in the sediments and surface waters of the lakes, streams, and wetlands directly downstream from the Fort and restock the watershed. We cited the many subsistence fishermen, crabbers, and clambers that can be seen plying the waters, banks and bridges despite warnings. The first phase will resample/re-analyze Wampum Lake heavy metals and take upstream samples to determine precise sources. Wampum lake lies only 2/10 mile downstream from the western post's border. NJFC will seek additional EJSG funding for future phases for sampling, analysis, and remediation of streams exiting from the eastern post's border and directly entering the Shrewsbury River, which affects a wider population and environment.

Clearwater has sought independent partners, like the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) and Monmouth University who both conducted significant testing of Wampum Lake in 1990 using different methodologies—chemical analysis and biological fish tissue sampling. Both concluded that the lake was contaminated with heavy metals—Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Silver, Thallium, and Zinc—and the risk to human and animal life are high.