



NEWSLETTER

Winter/SPRING 2019

Since 1972, STEM's mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural environment of Moorestown for today's and future generations.

March 2019, Volume 48, Issue 1

In This Issue

Annual Meeting/Election & Presentation

A Note from the President's Desk

Vote at Annual Meeting

STEM Steering Committee Slate

Documentary Film, "The Messenger"

STEM Photo Contest Rules

A Tribute to Kay Smith

Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship Award

NAC: Opportunities to Volunteer

2019 NAC Calendar

"Drawdown" Workshops Recap

Moorestown Citizens of the Year
The Browning-Hess'

Annual Joint Meeting Report

Happy Mulching

STEM Membership Form—Renew!

Plant Sale—Save the Date

Celebrate 49th Annual Earth Day

STEM Steering Committee Members

ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION & SPRING PRESENTATION

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7 p.m.

FREE

Moorestown Lutheran Home

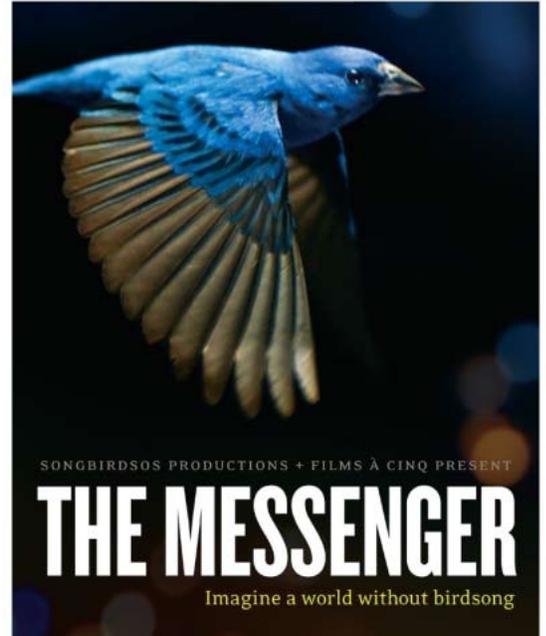
"The Castle"

255 East Main Street

STEM invites its members and the general public to its Annual Meeting. In addition to the election of Officers and Directors, the evening will feature a viewing of the documentary film *"The Messenger"* — introduced by Lisa Herman of Wild Birds Unlimited in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

This enlightening 2015 film, recipient of the Canadian Screen Award For Best Cinematography in a feature documentary, explores the causes of mass, worldwide songbird population depletion. The movie investigates our deep-seated connection to birds and how their challenges also have implications for humans and other wildlife. Light refreshments will be available.

Questions—contact Joe Ponessa at jponessa@comcast.net. See page two for further details on the proposed slate and feature film.



Movie poster photo above, courtesy of Google Images.

A Note from the President's Desk

Below, Barb Rich at a Town Council Meeting

Little Woods, that great open space park on Creek Road, stretching to the Rancocas, and providing beautiful overlooks, is in for a name change.

The current name honors Dr. Silas Little, onetime owner of that tract. He was an environmentalist, silviculturalist, and researcher. The property was sold to developers, who after some years, donated it to Moorestown in the late 1990's.

In December of last year, Town Council approved a motion to rename Little Woods in honor of Barbara Rich. Barb is a founding member of STEM, a tireless worker for open space, and a recognized expert, at both local and statewide levels, on open space environmental issues. She is also a founding member of the Rancocas Conservancy and was recently recognized as "Environmentalist of the Year" by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

The new name will be "The Barbara Rich Preserve at Little Woods." This designation, which was approved at the February 25 meeting of Town Council, will not become official pending the resolution of some procedural issues. STEM is proud and pleased to see this honor bestowed on someone who has worked so diligently over the years, and continues to work for the preservation and promotion of open space in Moorestown.

—Joseph Ponessa



Calendar of Upcoming STEM Events

Thursday, March 28

STEM Annual Meeting
Moorestown Lutheran Home "Castle"
7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 12

NAC Conservation Project
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Esther Yanai Preserve
Garwood Road near Albury Court

Wednesday, April 17

STEM Steering Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 29

NAC Conservation Project
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Pompeston Park, Upstream
Near New Albany & Iron Post Roads

Friday, May 10

NAC Conservation Project
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
South Valley Woods
Oldershaw Ave./S. Valley School

Wednesday, May 15

STEM Steering Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.



ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION & PRESENTATION

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Lutheran Home "Castle," 255 E. Main Street

Vote for the 2019-20 Slate

**Enjoy the Documentary Film
"The Messenger"**

**STEM STEERING COMMITTEE
2019-2020 PROPOSED SLATE**

President (2-year term; 2018-2020): Joseph Ponessa
Vice-president (2-year term; 2018-2020): Mark Pensiero
Treasurer (2-year term; 2019-2021): Chet Dawson
Secretary (2-year; 2019-2021 term): Paula Horton
Directors: 1-year terms
Claire Rollin Adair
Susan Buffalino
Nanci Clem
Jean Fox
Kathy Huffman
Colleen Malloy
Joan Ponessa
Betsy Schnorr

2019-20 Nominating Committee:

Kathy Huffman (Steering Committee Member)
Claire Rollin Adair (Steering Committee Member)
Barb Rich (Non-Steering Committee Member)

*Submitted by 2018-19 Nominating Committee:
Claire Rollin Adair, Kathy Huffman, and Barb Rich*

Introduction by Lisa Herman of Wild Birds Unlimited

The general public is invited to join STEM members for their Annual Meeting, held this year at the Lutheran Home "Castle" on Main Street. After a short business meeting and Steering Committee election, Lisa Herman of Wild Birds Unlimited in Cherry Hill will introduce the documentary "THE MESSENGER." This Su Ry-nard contemplative movie explores humanity's deep connection to birds and the effects man-made hazards have on their population numbers.

If you have not had a chance to visit the "Castle," this is a great opportunity to view a stirring film in a historic location. Built in 1919, the building was originally the home of Samuel Leeds Allen, the inventor of the Flexible Flyer sled. The entrance to the "Castle" is accessed via the side portico by the driveway. The presentation is free. Contact STEM President Joe Ponessa at jponessa@comcast.net for additional details.

Review: "The Messenger is riveting, emotionally engaging, and visually extravagant from the first frame to the last. This is a must-see movie for anybody who values the natural world or wonders about its relationship to humans."

~ John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Enter STEM's 21th Annual Nature in Moorestown Photo Contest

In 1998, STEM initiated the first annual "Nature in Moorestown Photo Contest." Since that time, hundreds of photos have been submitted for judging—all offering a glimpse into the wonders of the natural world. Take your camera with you on your next outdoor activity. Pick your favorites and enter them in this year's contest—you might have a winner!

The rules:

- Photos must be taken in Moorestown (after June 2018)
- Subjects should be predominantly natural as opposed to man-made
- Submit small color panoramas or prints up to 5" X 7"
- Digital editing and adjustment are acceptable, but no photo montages
- Mail entries to:
STEM, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057 by June 1, 2019
or bring them to the STEM Annual Picnic in June (TBD)
- A maximum of 4 entries per person will be accepted
- Awards will be given in adult (over 16 years) and children's categories

Entries must have the following information written on the back of each photo for it to be judged:

- Title of picture
- Name and address of photographer
- Location of photo
- Month and year of photo
- Arrow pointing to the top of the picture
- Adult or child category

*Signs of spring photos on right by
Margo Foster. Top: Witch hazel
Bottom: early crocuses*

Be inspired by the season!



A Tribute to Kay Smith

When you have a chance, visit the STEM website at www.stemonline.org. In the upper right of the “Welcome” page there is a link to a virtual tour of some of Moorestown’s preserved open spaces. Click on the box and you’ll have a chance to see and hear Kay Smith (and other Natural Area Care site leaders) talk about the sites, their histories, and their significant natural features. When the video was recorded, Kay was still Chairperson of the NAC Committee, so she had an influence on its content. It is a wonderful testament to what Kay and the other STEM founders, Esther Yanai and Barb Rich, envisioned for Moorestown when the environmental non-profit was started in 1972.

The early 1970s saw the birth of the environmental movement—the first Earth Day was in 1970. The times were energized by change—the Clean Water/Air Acts, feminist rights, equal rights legislation, etc. and Rachel Carson was an influential figure on the national scene. Moorestown was not to be outdone and STEM’s founders had much they saw that needed to get accomplished. At the time, the Township committees that support the municipality now were not in existence, so STEM’s work proved to be invaluable and set the groundwork for many improvements and preservations and influenced local legislation over the following decades.

Kay was the brain, heart, and lungs of the Natural Area Care Committee for much of its existence. Over the years, Kay mentored many new members and imparted her knowledgeable about natural history—especially botany and water quality issues. Stewardship projects, “Second Saturday Work Projects” were scheduled for selected open space sites and the list grew as additional parcels were added to the Township’s inventory. The health of the individual habitats improved over the years and with consistent maintenance, the trail

system now affords miles of hickable areas that can be enjoyed by all. Maps of all GPS’d sites are available on the Township website and will also be offered on the STEM website shortly.

In 2014, a STEM scholarship was offered to graduating Moorestown seniors and renamed the Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship Award in 2015. It is a fitting tribute to a dedicated educator and environmentalist and assures that future generations share in her commitment to the natural areas in Moorestown and beyond.

Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship Award

Each year, STEM challenges Moorestown high schoolers to show a concern for the natural world by their involvement in activities and projects that reflect an awareness of current environmental issues.

To acknowledge these accomplishments, STEM offers a \$1,000 scholarship award to a graduating senior. Eligible students are encouraged to keep a record of all projects and related activities to use for reference when they fill out the scholarship application form.

The award was initiated in 2014 and in 2015, the scholarship was renamed The Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship to honor Kay Smith, a founding STEM member who has devoted years of service and leadership to our organization.

A plaque with the names of prior-year recipients is on display in Moorestown High School. Direct all questions to STEM Treasurer Mark Pensiero. Contact information is on page 8.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR KAY SMITH

Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Cherry Hill
401 Kings Highway North, Cherry Hill, NJ

Memorial contributions may be given to:

STEM, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057; www.stemonline.org

— or —

The Nature Conservancy, Attention: Treasury
4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203

www.nature.org



Photos below and on right, courtesy of the STEM archives.



NATURAL AREA CARE —Caring for the Environment



Looking forward to
seeing you at one of the
NAC Projects

The 2019 NAC Season Begins in March

The NAC sub-committee had its first meeting on February 1, with a focus on scheduling the stewardship project work days for the 2019 season. All of the open space sites in Moorestown were evaluated for maintenance, and after careful consideration, the committee earmarked eight of the sites for attention this year.

In keeping with the 2017 STEM Strategic Priorities—“Building a Coalition with Other Organizations”—the NAC Committee is again committed to connecting with area businesses, schools, and scout and church groups. Weekday sessions continue to be the norm, as the bulk of the volunteers are coming from local businesses looking to do community service. As needed and requested, stewardship sessions can be added to the schedule to accommodate other groups looking to volunteer on other dates.

The schedule, listed on the right, is on the STEM calendar and members and the general public are encouraged to attend. Although these projects are noted as three-hour sessions, volunteers can put in less time on any given day. Also note that there are no dates in July and August.

Each conservation project is led by a knowledgeable project leader who will coordinate the morning or afternoon activities. Work gloves, clippers, loppers, and other needed equipment will be provided or you can supply your own. It's suggested that volunteers wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and closed-toed shoes. After the clean-up, each project will include an interpretive hike, as appropriate.

For additional information, please contact NAC:

Chairperson Kathy Huffman at 856-778-2201 & kajer3@comcast.net or
Co-chairperson Paula Horton at 856-296-0798 & phorton100@comcast.net or
Coordinator Susan Buffalino at 856-495-4642 & sbuff4@aol.com

Thank You to TD Bank Employees for Their Volunteer Efforts

Photo, lower middle, taken at a Pompeston Park stewardship project in May 2018, taken by site leader Colleen Malloy.

Coming Up This Spring

**April 12—Esther Yanai Preserve,
Garwood Road**

**April 29—Pompeston Park Up-
stream of New Albany Road**

**May 10—South Valley Woods,
Oldershaw Avenue, behind
South Valley Elementary School**



2019 NAC Calendar

Volunteers Always Welcome

Monday, March 25

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

South Valley Woods

**Oldershaw Avenue, Behind South
Valley Elementary School**

Friday, April 12

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Esther Yanai Preserve

**Garwood Road@Swede Run
Near Albany Court**

Monday, April 29

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Pompeston Park Upstream

**New Albany Road Near
Iron Post Road**

Friday, May 10

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

South Valley Woods

**Oldershaw Avenue, Behind South
Valley Elementary School**

Monday, June 3

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Pompeston Park Downstream

**New Albany Road Near
Iron Post Road**

Monday, September 9

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Waterworks Woods

**Kings Highway (entrance between
Strawbridge Lake & Waterworks**

Friday, September 20

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve

**The Barb Rich Preserve
@ Little Woods**

**Creek Road, East of
Borton Landing Road**

Friday, October 18

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Pompeston Park Downstream
of Fernwood Drive**

Access from Fernwood Drive

“Drawdown” Workshops Address Climate Change Issues

The Pachamama Alliance hosted a series of five Saturday workshops from January 19 to February 2 at the Moorestown Library—STEM was the local sponsor. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce participants to ways they might engage the public in a discussion about climate change issues and give them ways to include sustainable lifestyle choices in their everyday lives.

Drawdown is that point in time at which greenhouse gases peak and begin to decline on a year-to-year basis.

—Paul Hawken

“Drawdown—the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming,” a New York Times bestselling book, edited by Paul Hawken was used as the resource for this workshop. The book is the result of Project Drawdown,

Moorestown’s Co-Citizens of the Year: David Hess and Debbie Browning Hess

Moorestown’s Service Club Council honored David Hess and Debbie Browning Hess as Co-Citizens of the Year at the COY Dinner at the Moorestown Community House on February 6, 2019.

The couple live at and run the Browning-Hess Farm on Lenola Road, established in 1898. Their farm has been preserved through their intentions to preserve land and the farming tradition in Moorestown, and from the Burlington County Farm Preservation program.

Active members of the community, David and Debbie volunteered over the years in various school programs, as Indian guides, and by coaching recreational sports teams as they raised their children. From the bounty of their farm, they have made donations of food for the needy, flowers, and even bales of straw for STEM’s annual fall festival, STEM Steps Out.

Both of them have served on various committees and organizations in town over the years, such as the Moorestown Open Space Advisory Committee (Debbie), and Sustainable Moorestown (David, one of its founding members) and they attend most of the Town Council meetings.

—Margo Foster

a compilation of research and data from experts in climate and environmental fields. The goal of the project was to identify, measure, and model 100 substantive solutions to determine how much could be accomplished by 2050. The resource is organized into seven sectors and each sector offers solutions on how to begin the reduction of greenhouse gases in order to reverse global warming.

Pachamama Alliance’s Marty and June led workshop participants through a series of exercises intended to get each attendee to focus on an area of interest and to create a project that would allow them to interact with the community to effect change.

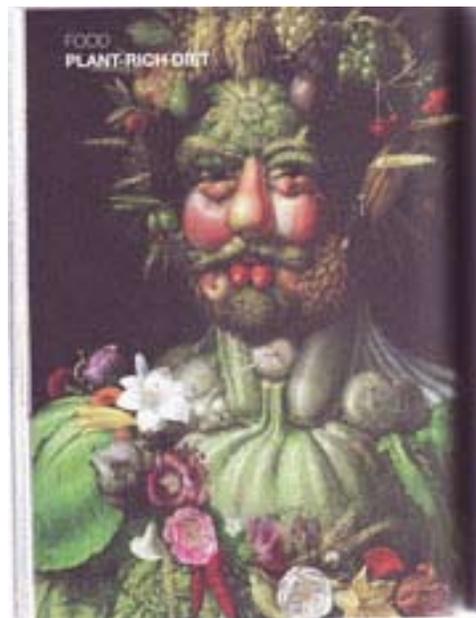


Image above, is “Vertumnus” by the painter Guiseppe Arcimboldo, created in 1590-91. It appears on page 38 of “Drawdown,” used to symbolize a plant-rich diet—one of the book’s solution descriptions.

We see global warming not as an inevitability but as an invitation to build, innovate, and effect change—a pathway that awakens creativity, compassion, and genius. This is not a liberal agenda, nor is it a conservative one. This is the human agenda.

—Paul Hawken

**Volunteer projects are available for:
businesses and school & scout groups, and
for community service hours
Contact Kathy Huffman at kajer3@comcast.net or
Paula Horton at phorton100@comcast.net**

Rutgers Gardens Director Speaks at Joint Meeting

The Moorestown Garden Club hosted the Annual Joint Meeting at the Moorestown Library on February 28, 2019, featuring speaker Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens.

Crawford presented his topic “Environmentally Friendly Gardens—Sustainability in the Home Garden” accompanied with slides, in a lively, conversational manner. The design of a sustainable garden considers summer cooling (shade trees), winter protection (e.g., a coniferous windbreak), water conservation, and biodiversity, among other factors. Crawford suggested using detritus (decaying leaves, sticks, and stems of herbaceous plants) as mulch to allow

for water to penetrate. Commonly used shredded wood products look neat, but often knit together so tightly that water flow is hampered.

The Annual Joint Meeting is presented early in the year, hosted on a rotating basis by one of these participating groups: STEM, Moorestown Garden Club, Historical Society of Moorestown, and the Pompeston Creek Watershed Association.

To visit the gardens, information is available at rugardens@njaes.rutgers.edu.

—Margo Foster

Happy Mulching!

Spring is coming, but before you put on your gardening gloves, the Moorestown Tree Planting and Preservation Committee would like to remind residents of good mulching practices around trees.

Mulch should never be piled up against the tree trunk. Mulching in a “volcano” shape can make the tree more susceptible to fungus, insects, and rodents. It can cause root girdling which can weaken the stability of the tree. Instead mulch in a “donut” shape. Keep mulch 6 inches from the trunk and mulch out as far as the branches extend above. Keep the mulch 2-4” thick. Each spring, break up old mulch and add new to maintain a 2-4” layer.

If your property is maintained by a landscaping/lawn service, please share this reminder with them!

Properly applied mulch provides these benefits:

- Prevents soil compaction
- Retains water in the soil for tree roots
- Keeps lawn equipment from damaging the trunk
- Moderates temperature
- Reduces competing vegetation
- Provides nutrients to the tree as it breaks down

Think of the mulch as a life preserver for your trees! Don't choke them by piling up mulch against the trunk of the trees.

Happy Mulching!

Examples of Root Girdling caused by
Volcano Mulching





Annual STEM Membership Form

Return to:

P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Make checks payable to STEM

(A membership expiration date appears on the mailing label.)

(Please print)

Name _____ Check HERE for electronic Newsletter only

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Memberships: New Renewal

Individual (\$15) \$ _____

Family (\$25) \$ _____

Student (\$10) \$ _____

Donations:

Open Space Fund \$ _____

Ongoing activities \$ _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Dues and donations are tax-deductible

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (please circle your areas of interest)

Communications

Flyers, brochures, & postcards
Newsletter
Public relations

Advocacy

Attend town meetings
Letter writing
Phone calls

Education

Community education
Educational materials
School-based programs

Events

Children's activities
Donating plants for Plant Sale
Plant Sale staffing
Open Space Festival
Refreshments

Outdoor Activities

Conservation projects
Lead nature walks
Litter Patrol
Natural Area Care
Open space monitoring

Administrative

Clerical
Computer related
Fundraising
Legal issues

Visual and Creative Arts

Arts and crafts
Fine Arts
Graphic design
Photography

Other

STEM is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of New Jersey by calling (201) 504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

SAVE THE DATE—Saturday, June 1, 2019 **STEM Plant Sale on Moorestown Day**

One of STEM's spring events takes advantage of Moorestown Day on the first Saturday in June. Under canopies sheltering from the weather, STEM tables will be set up in front of the First Baptist Church in the usual location on Main Street. Lots of native plants from Pinelands Nursery will be for sale as well as a variety of herbs and local favorites.

Knowledgeable STEM volunteers will be manning the plant sale booth and they can provide information and can answer your gardening questions.

The photo, above right, is of a spring favorite—snow bells. In addition to these early bloomers, yards and gardens may incorporate an assortment of other perennials that bloom at different times throughout the growing season. Consider planting native species—they will attract a diversity of wildlife and provide the resources our birds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators need to survive. An added plus is that perennials come back year after year.

Again this year, STEM will be accepting plants from your garden/yard/house. Bring them on the day of the event or contact Nanci Clem at 856-866-0065 or nanci2424@yahoo.com to arrange pick-up. The Plant Sale is the organization's only fundraising event of the year, so your support is welcomed!



Photo above, taken by Baird Foster, captures a colorful early bloomer, the snow bell.

STEM, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057
Visit us online at www.stemonline.org.
Our newsletter looks great in color!



**SPRING
2019**

Save the Environment of Moorestown
P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057
www.stemonline.org

**Membership Renewal
Benefits STEM Projects**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2019 STEM ANNUAL MEETING & PRESENTATION
Thursday, March 28 from 7 pm
Annual Meeting/Election for 2019-20
View Environmental Documentary Film, "The Messenger"
Moorestown Lutheran Home "Castle"
255 East Main Street, Moorestown
Details on Page 1—All are welcome

**Stay Active Environmentally
Dedicate Time for Volunteering
Renew Your STEM Membership
Vote at the Annual Meeting—March 28**

**Monday, April 22
Celebrate the 49th Earth Day in 2019**

- **Learn about rain barrels**
They're easy to make or available to buy, but either way you'll conserve water by recycling the rain.
- **Plant a native tree or shrub in your yard**
The wildlife, local and migrating, will thank you for the extra food supply that native plants produce.
- **Walk to town; patronize local local businesses**
You moved to Moorestown for its school system and great downtown—so support them with your dollars.
- **Take your child or grandchild to a preserved site**
STEM supports Moorestown's open spaces. Share the beauty of the outdoors, get some exercise, and do something that doesn't involve a screen or a sports ball.
- **Tell a neighbor about STEM's mission**
Participating in activities and NAC events is a great way to learn about your community and issues of the day.

STEM Steering Committee Members for 2018-2019

Joe Ponessa, President; 856-235-6376 & jponessa@comcast.net
 Elizabeth Endres, Vice-President; 856-222-1163 & eendres03@gmail.com
 Mark Pensiero, Treasurer; 856-235-0171 & mark.pensiero99@gmail.com
 Paula Horton, Secretary; 856-296-0798 & phorton100@comcast.net
 Claire Rollin Adair, Director; 856-727-3830 & cerollin@gmail.com
 Susan Buffalino, Director & Newsletter Ed.; 856-866-9506 & sbuff4@aol.com
 Jean Fox, Director; 856-642-7864 & foxjean62@gmail.com
 Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & kajer3@comcast.net
 Diane Miskowski, Director; 856-235-6523 & miskowskid@gmail.com
 Joan Ponessa, Director; 856-235-6376 & joanponessa@comcast.net
 Betsy Schnorr, Director; 856-235-6348 & betsybjs@aol.com
 MHSEC Representative

STEM's Steering Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month (with a break in December), and it's there that decisions are made about STEM's activities for the year, STEM involvement at public events, directions on environmental advocacy, financial commitments, legal obligations—in short, most aspects of the organization.

Steering Committee members are nominated in late winter and early spring, and their acceptance is voted on at our Annual Meeting in the spring. STEM members are welcome to attend a Steering meeting (though, per our by-laws, not permitted to vote on motions), and any STEM member who is interested in serving on the Steering Committee is encouraged to speak with someone on our Nominating Committee. New views keep the organization dynamic!

For information about STEM and its programs, contact:

Joe Ponessa, President; 856-235-6376 & jponessa@comcast.net

Join us on the third Wednesday of the month—you'll be surprised how much you'll learn not just about STEM, but about Moorestown in general.

See the calendar on the front page or

contact one of our Nominating Committee members:

Claire Rollin Adair at 856-727-3830 & cerollin@gmail.com

Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & kajer3@comcast.net

Barb Rich at 856-234-2787 & barbrich37ec@gmail.com