

Sept. 2011, Volume 40, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

Working Since 1972 to SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF MOORESTOWN

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
— Margaret Mead

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FREE ADMISSION!

STEM STEPS OUT IN 2011 OPEN SPACE FESTIVAL "SALUTE TO LOCAL FARMERS"

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 FROM NOON TO 4 P.M.
AT STRAWBRIDGE LAKE & KINGS HIGHWAY
(RAINDATE: OCTOBER 9)**



The fall harvest season is a traditional time to celebrate the fruitful bounty of the land. Moorestown has a long and colorful history as a farming community, and a number of local farmers continue to offer produce to area residents. Burlington County also supports their efforts with a weekend Farmers Market at the County Agricultural Center on Centerton Road. By making local farmers the focus of this year's festival, STEM looks to inform and educate the community about our valuable resource. Learn how you can incorporate sustainable practices into your lifestyle by supporting area farmers, purchasing local products, and protecting the environment and native wildlife.

The afternoon festivities are geared for all ages and include a Historical Society of Moorestown farming exhibit, canoe rentals, a children's fishing contest, Strawbridge Lake explorations, live animals, kids' activities, and environmental organization exhibits and displays.

Come early so you don't miss any of the great attractions and displays. See Page 2 for details. Photos of prior-year events appear above and throughout the newsletter. All proceeds from this public festival go toward the STEM mission. Questions? Contact Jean Fox at (856) 642-7864 or wjf3@verizon.net.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Recycling in Moorestown was very successful in 2010. A total of 2,399 tons of curbside recycling, including 1,594 tons of paper and 805 tons of bottles never made its way to landfills. We can be very proud that we were number one in Burlington County! Our recycling efforts are applauded; however, we need to do better. Being #1 in recycling is a mixed blessing. So much tonnage also means we have a lot of waste and/or consumption. We need to reduce our total numbers. Several ways to do this are by reading your newspaper on-line, printing on previously used paper, and using water filters instead of bottled water. I am finding new ways to reduce my carbon footprint and I would like to hear from you. Please email me at betsybjs@aol.com, and let me know about ways you have reduced your footprint at home or work. Good ideas will go in the next newsletter.

—Betsy Schnorr

Calendar of Upcoming STEM Events

Sun., October 2

STEM Open Space Festival
Strawbridge Lake & Haines Drive
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Sat., October 8

NAC Conservation Project
Pompeston Park Downstream
of New Albany Road
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Wed., October 19

STEM Steering Committee Mtg.
7:30 p.m.

Fri., November 4

Candlelight Night
Main Street, Moorestown
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Sat., November 12

NAC Conservation Project
Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Wed., November 16

STEM Steering Committee Mtg.
7:30 p.m.

OPEN SPACE

FESTIVAL 2011

*Renew Your
STEM
Membership
Today!*

“SALUTE TO LOCAL FARMERS”

Featuring Historical Society of Moorestown’s *History of Local Farmers*

Enjoy attractions, displays, and fun activities including—

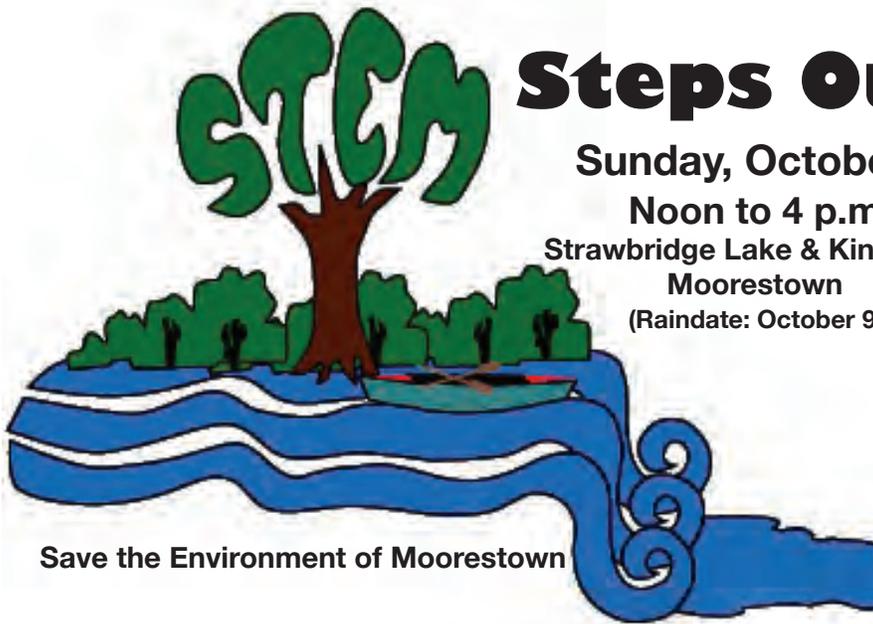
- *Canoe Rentals*
- *Fishing Contest (for ages 6-15)*
- *Local Farm Exhibits*
- *Strawbridge Lake Exploration*
- *Giant Open Space Cake*
- *Crafts and Games for Kids*
- *Barn Sale Bargains*
- *Refreshments Booth*

FREE Admission

- *Live Animal Exhibits, Including the Turtle Lady*
- *Environmental Organizations Displays*
- *STEM’s Photo Contest Winners*
- *Commemorative Open Space Banner Unveiling*
- *Moorestown K-3 Autumn Coloring Contest Display*
- *Pumpkins, Cornstalks, Mums, And More!*



All photos on this page were taken at SSO 2010 by STEM member Chet Dawson. Thank you Chet, for visually recording the events of the day.



Steps Out

Sunday, October 2

Noon to 4 p.m.

Strawbridge Lake & Kings Hwy.
Moorestown

(Raindate: October 9)



Admission to the festival is free, but donations are always appreciated. Proceeds benefit STEM’s efforts to preserve and protect Moorestown’s open space. For further information contact wjf3@verizon.net or (856) 642-7864 or visit STEM’s website at www.stemonline.org.



Monarch Magic in My Backyard

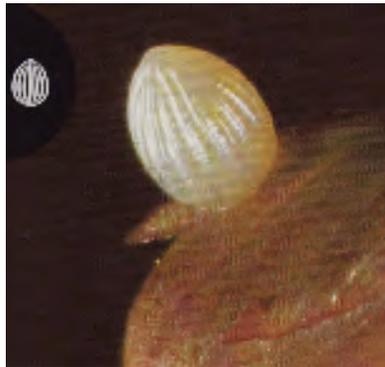
Right now, my back yard is a breeding ground for the amazing Monarch butterfly. Monarch butterflies go through four stages during one life cycle, and through four generations in one year. The four stages of the Monarch life cycle are the egg, the larva (caterpillar), the pupa (chrysalis), and the adult butterfly. The four generations are actually four different butterflies going through these four stages during one year until it is time to start over again with stage one and generation one.

In February and March, the final generation of hibernating Monarch butterflies comes out of hibernation to find a mate. These butterflies are the same butterflies that began their lives as eggs and ended as butterflies in my yard. They then traveled thousands of miles, flying across the midsection of America, ending their epic trip in the mountains of central Mexico. After wintering in Mexico, they then migrate north and east in order to find a place to lay their eggs. This starts stage one and generation one of the new year for the Monarch butterfly.

In March and April, eggs are laid on milkweed plants. They hatch into baby caterpillars, also called the larvae. It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch. The caterpillars are “eating machines,” and after about two weeks of non-stop eating, the caterpillars are fully-grown. The caterpillars eat nothing but milkweed, so if you want to attract Monarchs to your yard, you have to plant milkweed. The milkweed leaves contain toxins—poisonous chemicals. These toxins don’t hurt the caterpillar, but they do make the caterpillar poisonous to most predators. Because it eats milkweed leaves as a caterpillar, the Monarch butterfly is also poisonous. The survival of the Monarch depends on this self-defense system provided by the milkweed. The caterpillar then finds a place to attach itself so that it can start the process of metamorphosis—turning from a caterpillar into a butterfly. The caterpillar will attach itself to a stem or a leaf using silk and transform into a chrysalis. Although, from the outside, the 10 days of the chrysalis phase seems to be a time when nothing is happening, it is really a time of rapid change. Within the chrysalis the old

body parts of the caterpillar are undergoing a remarkable transformation, called metamorphosis, to become the beautiful parts that make up the butterfly that will emerge. The Monarch butterfly will emerge from the pupa and fly away, feeding on flowers and just enjoying the short life it has left, which is only about two to six weeks. This first generation Monarch will then die after laying eggs for generation number two.

The second generation of Monarch butterflies is born in May and June, and then the third generation will be born in July and August. These Monarch butterflies will go through exactly



the same four-stage life cycle as the first generation did, dying two to six weeks after they have emerged from the chrysalides.

The fourth generation of Monarch butterflies is different than the first three generations. It is born in September and October and goes through exactly the same process as the first, second and third generations except for one part. The fourth generation of Monarch butterflies does not die after two to six weeks. Instead, this generation migrates to warmer climates like Mexico and California, and will live for six to eight months until it is time to start the whole process over again. These are the butterflies that are going through their four stages of life right now in my backyard. —Mark Pensiero



Photo credits: Top left, Monarch egg and chrysalis, courtesy *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Insects, Eastern Region*, Bull and Farrand, Jr.; top right, Monarch caterpillar by Mark Pensiero; middle right, Monarch on sunflower, STEM archives; bottom right, *Hanna and Monarch*, by Bill Creekmore.

Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle

Photos below illustrate the four stages of a Monarch butterfly's life cycle. On the top row left is the elliptical-shaped egg. The chrysalis, with its delicate line of gold dots, appears in the middle. A hungry caterpillar on milkweed is the focus of the top right photo, and images of the adult Monarch appear in the two photos at the bottom.

NATURAL AREA CARE

—Caring for the Environment



For additional information regarding specific conservation projects, please contact the site leader listed in the 2011 NAC calendar on pages 4 & 5.

Only three more 2011 NAC oportunities remain. Site Leaders for these and other NAC sites provide an important community service in keeping an eye on the open space they manage, and in planning NAC project parties for them. STEM is always on the lookout for new NAC participants and Site Leaders. If you are, or know of anyone who would be interested in giving NAC a try, please contact me—or just come on one of the scheduled dates. For more information about Natural Area Care please contact Kay Smith at kksmith4@verizon.net.

—Kay Smith

UPCOMING CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Volunteers of all ages are always welcome!

South Valley Woods, next to South Valley School

Tuesday, September 20, 9:00-11:00 am

This is the last weekday Natural Area Care work party scheduled for 2011. Site Leaders Nancy Fife and Elaine Young will lead volunteers as they give this wooded open space its annual once-over. Volunteers will remove debris and refresh blazes to make the trails easier to follow.

Pompeston Park, Downstream of New Albany Road

Saturday, October 8, 8:30-10:30 am

Strictly speaking, site leader Tom Hottenstein is responsible for the stretch of Pompeston Park that is across Pompeston Creek and runs to the Pompeston Woods Easement. However, Tom has already done the yeoman's job of trimming and clearing the trail to make it an enjoyable walk. That means that the October 8 volunteers will be working in the portion of the Park that is between Fernwood and Georgian Drives trying to control some invasive vines—particularly the beautiful but deadly bittersweet.

Pompeston Park, Upstream of New Albany Road

Saturday, November 12, 8:30-10:30 am

This is the first segment of the longest trail system in Moorestown. Pompeston Park starts behind Baker School, is accessed at several locations, and runs along Pompeston Creek to Pompeston Woods, which extends to the Cinnaminson boundary. These trails are well-trodden and used by neighborhood children as well as adults. Under the leadership of Kay Smith, volunteers will continue the challenge of wisteria and Japanese Knotweed removal in that popular area.

—Kay Smith



Photo on left: Local scouts pose for a photo (with a wisteria vine) during a 2008 conservation project at Pompeston Park, upstream of New Albany Road. It was fun for everyone.

Join volunteers for an upcoming NAC project, and learn about the challenges that are part of maintaining preserved open space sites to encourage passive recreational use.

Save The Environment of Moorestown, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Visit us online at www.stemonline.org. Our newsletter looks great in color!

2011 NAC Calendar

Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated

Second Saturday and Weekday Events

Sat., March 12, 8:30-10:30 am

Strawbridge Lake Buffer

Site Co-Leader: Kay Smith
 Thanks for your help!
Kksmith4@verizon.net

Sat., April 9, 8:30-10:30 am

Pompeston Park

Site Co-Leader: Kay Smith
 Thanks for your help!
Kksmith4@verizon.net

Sat., April 16, 8:30-10:30 am

South Valley Woods

Site Co-Leader: Nancy Fife
 Thanks for your help!
kdfife@comcast.net

Wed., April 27, 9:00-11:00 am

Waterworks

Site Co-Leader: Louisa Khanlian
 Thanks for your help!
LKhanlian@msn.com

Sat., May 14, 8:30-10:30 am

Wigmore Acres

Site Co-Leader: Kathy Huffman
 Thanks for your help!
Kajer3@comcast.net

Tues., May 17, 9:00-11:00 am

Little Woods

Site Co-Leader: Renee Boulis
 Thanks for your help!
rboulis@yahoo.com

Sat., June 11, 8:30-10:30 am

Esth

Site Co-Leader: Dick Nelson
 Thanks for your help!
kcidnelson@comcast.net

Sat., July 9, 8:30-10:30 am

Pompeston

Site Co-Leader: Debbie Lord
 Thanks for your help!
dglord@aol.com

**Second Saturday and
Weekday Events (cont'd)**

Sat., Aug. 13, 8:30-10:30 am
Little Woods on the Rancocas

Site Co-Leader: Susan Buffalino
sbuff4@aol.com
Site Co-Leader: Lonnie Tait
lonniet@yahoo.com

Sat., Sept. 10, 8:30-10:30 am
Waterworks Woods

Site Co-Leader: Louisa Khanlian
Lkhanlian@msn.com

Tues., Sept. 20, 9:00-11:00 am
South Valley Woods

next to South Valley School
Site Co-Leader: Elaine Young
Youngsters1@verizon.net
Site Co-Leader: Nancy Fife
kdfife@comcast.net

Sat., Oct. 8, 8:30-10:30 am
Pompeston Park Downstream
of Fernwood Avenue

Site Leader: Tom Hottenstein
thottenstein@comcast.net

Sat., Nov. 12, 8:30-10:30 am
Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road

Site Leader: Kay Smith
Kksmith4@verizon.net

**Autumn Municipal
Parking Lot Cleanup**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

After a hot and dry/wet summer, the Municipal Parking Lot needs some help! Each fall (and spring), members of the Moorestown Garden Club spend a morning tending to the garden plots there. STEM's Litter Patrol joins in, picking up trash and helping with the chores as needed. Volunteers are welcome to help. Bring a friend, put on your gloves, and make some new friends in this worthwhile beautification effort. Meet behind Peter Pan at 9 a.m. (Rain date: Thursday, September 29)

Questions? Call Margo at 856-235-5862

Summer Storms Challenge Moorestown's Open Spaces

Summer storms have left their imprint on Little Woods on the Rancocas and Waterworks Woods. Natural Area Care planning sessions to both of these open spaces revealed downed trees and fallen branches strewn throughout.

In the process of planning for August and September Natural Area Care projects, Walt Trommelen and I ended up getting a workout just trying to negotiate the trails in Little Woods and Waterworks Woods—and this was before hurricane Irene. In Little Woods on the Rancocas/Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve, the trails were blocked in several spots by tangles of trees and saplings. The largest blockages would need to be cleared to allow access for NAC workers the following weekend. Our little hand saws just weren't up to the job. Luckily we were able to rent a 20-inch chain saw and recruit my grandson, Jim Petrillo, to use his 26-year-old muscles to wield it. Fortunately, using all available hands, we managed to open the trails so that the NAC volunteers could get to work.

Saturday, August 13th's crew, Lonnie and Jeff Tait, Jack Cresson, Walt Trommelen, Vera Darmo, Christina Chang, Tom Hottenstein, and David Bicking, ticked off most of the items on the project list to bring the Little Woods/ Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve trails back into easy use. They cleared the trails and marked them clearly to allow pleasant walking through this beautiful open space. Only the weed whacking and mulching remained to be done—that is, until Irene came along and brought down more trees and debris that would need to be cleared. Luckily though, there were no large tree tangles.

In Waterworks Woods we encountered several downed trees, but none that with a minor bypass would preclude following the trail. The NAC party on September 10 went a long way toward restoring this well-used, accessible open space to its former condition. During the pre-NAC walk, the recurrent gully that develops at the Kings Highway entrance was deeper than usual, and there was a hole that was created when a tree went over below the dam. The Township routinely keeps this area maintained and will probably fill the hole as well, to make a safer entry into the site.

NAC workers took on removal of smaller trees, branches and debris along the trails, and repaired some of the foot bridges, as part of their September conservation project activities.

—Kay Smith

Canoers on Strawbridge Lake at STEM Steps Out 2010 enjoy the beauty of nature as seen from the water. One of the highlights of Moorestown is its managed open space sites that offer hiking and wildlife watching close to home.



THANK YOU to the many STEM volunteers who contributed to this newsletter, and assisted in its publication by proofreading, mailing the newsletter, and offering numerous suggestions that improved its quality.

2011 Winners of STEM's "Nature in Moorestown" Photo Contest



Typically, the Photo Contest serves as a major activity at STEM's Annual Picnic. While the 2011 picnic honored Kathy and Sam Carswell, the contest still offered a venue for local photographers to share some of the natural beauty that they had captured throughout the year. Winning images focused on subjects with strong color and texture—two elements of good design. They are featured on this page and can be viewed at the STEM Steps Out Festival on Sunday, October 2. Thank you to Bill Creekmore for coordinating the photo contest and for providing an engaging digital slide show at the picnic.



- ADULT DIVISION WINNERS**
- 1st-*Great Horned Baby Owls*
Steve Kramer
 - 2nd-*Summer Beauty*
Chet Dawson
 - 3rd-*A Flash of Winter Colors*
Chet Dawson
 - 4th-*Halloween Pennant*
Jennifer Bulava



- CHILDREN'S DIVISION WINNERS**
- 1st-*Robin's Egg Blue*
Ally Poaletti
 - 2nd-*Winter Sunset*
Sam Testa
 - 3rd-*The Lonely Snowman*
Sam Testa

Photos, clockwise from top left: *Great Horned Baby Owls*, *The Lonely Snowman*, *Summer Beauty*, *Halloween Pennant*, *Robin's Egg Blue*, *Winter Sunset*, and *Flash of Winter Colors*,



Honoring the Carswells

Two of STEM's active volunteers, Kathy and Sam Carswell, planning to relocate to the west coast, were honored at this year's Annual Picnic on June 18 for their decades of dedication and service to the STEM mission. Kathy has served as STEM's president, vice-president, and steering director many years over, and is a frequent NAC volunteer at weekend conservation projects. Sam has coordinated the "Nature in Moorestown" Photo Contest from its inception in 1999 to 2010, and along with Kathy, has lent his expertise to many STEM and NAC events. Their appreciation and concern for the natural areas in our township—the meadows, woods, and wetlands that are home to our local wildlife—knows no bounds. Thank you to all who attended the picnic and helped STEM recognize the many contributions that Kathy and Sam have made to Moorestown, Burlington County, and their residents. Photos taken that day can be viewed on the STEM website, www.stemonline.org.

A warm thank you to Claire Rollin Adair and her family for hosting the 2011 Annual STEM Picnic and Photo Contest honoring Kathy and Sam Carswell.



Annual STEM Membership Form

Return to:

P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Is your membership up-to-date?

(An expiration date appears on the mailing label.)

(Please print)

Name _____ Check HERE for electronic Newsletter

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.

"1776" – STEM Participates in July 4 Parade

A big thank you goes to all the STEM members who participated in our entry in the July 4 Parade, spearheaded by Moorestown's 2011 Citizen of the Year Dave Schill. With great effort, Dave and his committee resurrected the parade after the town went for several years without one. Judging by the number of participants in the parade and onlookers along the route, not everyone was at the shore on Independence Day this year!

Moorestown's fourteen Open Space banners were displayed on a trailer borrowed from Woodedge Stables, and they drew enthusiastic cheers and applause from the crowd. Helping to spread the word about STEM's activities, marchers in green STEM tee shirts carried signs including Natural Area Care, Litter Patrol, Farmland Preservation, and "This Land Is Your Land."

STEM's entry helped the environment of Moorestown to be **Stimulating**, **Terrific**, **Exhilarating**, and **Motivational** for the parade.

—Margo Foster



Top, Bill Creekmore and STEM president Betsy Schnorr lead the STEM July 4 parade entry.

Above and on right, Kyler Foster and John Donohue decorate the trailer displaying the Open Space banners. Photos by Margo Foster.

STEM'S OPEN SPACE FESTIVAL
"Salute to Local Farmers"
Sunday, October 2, 2011
Noon to 4 p.m.
at Strawbridge Lake & Kings Highway

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AREA EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Saturday, Sept. 25, 2011-** Autumn in the Pine Barrens, 9am-1pm, NJA Rancocas Nature Center, call 609-261-2495 to register
- Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011-** Bird Seed Sale Day, 9am-3pm, NJA Rancocas Nature Center, call 609-261-2495 for details
- Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011-** Canoe the Rancocas 10am, www.co.burlington.nj.us, to register call 609-265-5858, meet at BCC launch
- Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011-** Late Migrants at Palmyra Cove, 9am, Burlington Co. Natural Sciences Club, wildbyrd@comcast.net or call 609-268-0940 for details
- Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011-** Chatsworth Cranberry Festival, 9am-4pm, Downtown Chatsworth, Rt. 563, Chatsworth, 609-726-9237 (also on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011)
- Friday, Oct. 21, 2011-** Fall Migratory Birds & Foliage at Smithville Park, 9am, Burlington Co. Parks, call 609-265-5858 to register, www.co.burlington.nj.us.
- Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011-** Bird Strawbridge Lake with Sandra Keller, 9am-12pm, call NJA Rancocas Nature Center at 609-261-2495 for details
- Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011-** What Every Birder Knows...About For sythe NWR, 7:30pm, Burlington Co. Natural Sciences Club, Lumberton Leas, Lumberton, 609-268-0940 for details

STEM Steering Committee Members for 2011-2012

Betsy Schnorr, President; 856-235-6348 & BetsyBJS@aol.com
Kathy Huffman, Vice-president; 856-778-2201 & kajer3@comcast.net
Chet Dawson, Treasurer; 856-273-0126 & cwd9@cornell.edu
Susan Buffalino, Sec. & Newsletter Ed.; 856-866-9506 & sbuff4@aol.com
Claire Rollin Adair, Director; 856-727-3830 & cerollin@gmail.com
Nanci Clem, Director; 856-866-0065 & nanci2424@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Endres-Hines, Director; 856-222-1163 & eendres03@gmail.com
Margo Foster, Director; 856-235-5862 & mcmfoster@yahoo.com
Jean Fox, Director; 856-642-7864 & wjf3@verizon.net
Mark Pensiero, Director; 856-235-0171 & mark.w.pensiero@lmco.com
Walt Trommelen, Director; 856-234-4721 & littera@comcast.net

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 Nanci Clem at 856-866-0065.

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:
Nanci Clem at 856-866-0065 & nanci2424@yahoo.com
Claire Rollin Adair at 856-727-3830 & cerollin@gmail.com
Barb Rich at 856-234-2787 & brich@moorestown.nj.us