



Sept. 2018, Volume 47, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018

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

In This Issue

STEM 2018 Open Space Festival at Strawbridge Lake

A Note from the President's Desk

SSO Coloring Contest—Grades K-3

Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship Award

Picnic & Photo Contest Recap

Esther Yanai Parking

Thank you to the Malloy-Loprestis

2018 NAC Schedule & Stewardship Projects & Reports

Parks & Open Space Inventory Now Online

Pompeston Park Easement

Open Space Banners at Town Hall

"Nature in Moorestown" Photo Contest Winners

STEM Membership Form

Plant Sale Photos

Welcome New Members

STEM Steering Committee

Calendar of Upcoming STEM Events

Sunday, October 7

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

Friday, October 12

NAC Stewardship Project
South Valley Woods
Behind South Valley School
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 17

NAC Stewardship Project
Pompeston Park Downstream
of Fernwood Drive
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 17

STEM Steering Committee Mtg.
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 1

Pompeston Park Easement Monitoring
Meeting location TBD
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14

STEM Steering Committee Mtg.
7:00 p.m.

STEM's FALL 2018 FESTIVAL

Celebrate the Environment

at Strawbridge Lake Park

OCTOBER 7 FROM NOON TO 4 P.M.

AT THE CORNER OF HAINES DRIVE & KINGS HIGHWAY (RAIN OR SHINE)

For forty-six years, STEM has been connecting with Moorestown residents to forward an appreciation of the natural world. Each fall since the early 1990s, a festival has been organized to engage the local community. Originally these events were held at the Moorestown Community House, but in recent years, the location has been the Kings Highway end of Strawbridge Lake Park.



Photo oabove, the Collins Flynn Band at the 2015 Fall Festival.

This year, by popular demand, the format returns to its earlier roots with live music, canoe/kayak rentals, fishing contest, coloring contest awards, an interpretive hike in Waterworks Woods, informative displays, live animal exhibits, refreshments, and much more—all for free!

Throughout the afternoon, activities will be timed and ongoing, with awards for the Coloring Contest and prizes for the Fishing Contest winners presented. Make sure you set aside time to get on the water—Clark's canoes and kayaks will be available to rent. The STEM Nature in Moorestown Photo Contest winners will be displayed near the STEM table with its educational materials. Refreshments will be available on-site.

There is still time to enter the K-3 Coloring Contest. Pick up a copy of the coloring page at the Moorestown Library Children's section. The fall afternoon will be fun for all. Questions? Visit the STEM website at www.stemonline.org or contact Kathy Huffman at kajer3@comcast.net or Betsy Schnorr at betsybjs@aol.com.

Throughout the afternoon, activities will be timed and ongoing, with awards for the Coloring Contest and prizes for the Fishing Contest winners presented. Make sure you set aside time to get on the water—Clark's canoes and kayaks will be available to rent. The STEM Nature in Moorestown Photo Contest winners will be displayed near the STEM table with its educational materials. Refreshments will be available on-site.

A Note From the President's Desk

As you may be aware, it has been two years since we requested the development of parking areas at two of our Natural Open Space parks, Esther Yanai Preserve and Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve.

Finally, in August, some trees were removed at the Yanai park, clearing the way for its parking area (photos on page 3). The remaining steps for this project are excavation for the placement of gravel for the drive and parking spaces (and pavement for the handicapped space), and widening of the entrance on Garwood Road. The goal is to have this finished in time for our December 9 Esther Yanai Memorial Walk (location TBD)—stay tuned. Work at the Susan Stevens Halby Preserve has not yet commenced, but hopefully, this can begin soon.

Meanwhile, our annual STEM Steps Out fall celebration at Strawbridge Lake is on schedule for October 7. There will be some exciting new demonstrations and exhibits. See the article above. Hope to see you there!

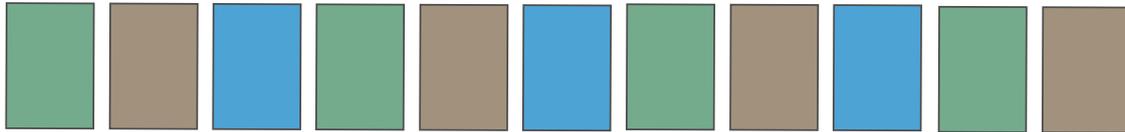
—Joe Ponessa, STEM President

ENTER THE



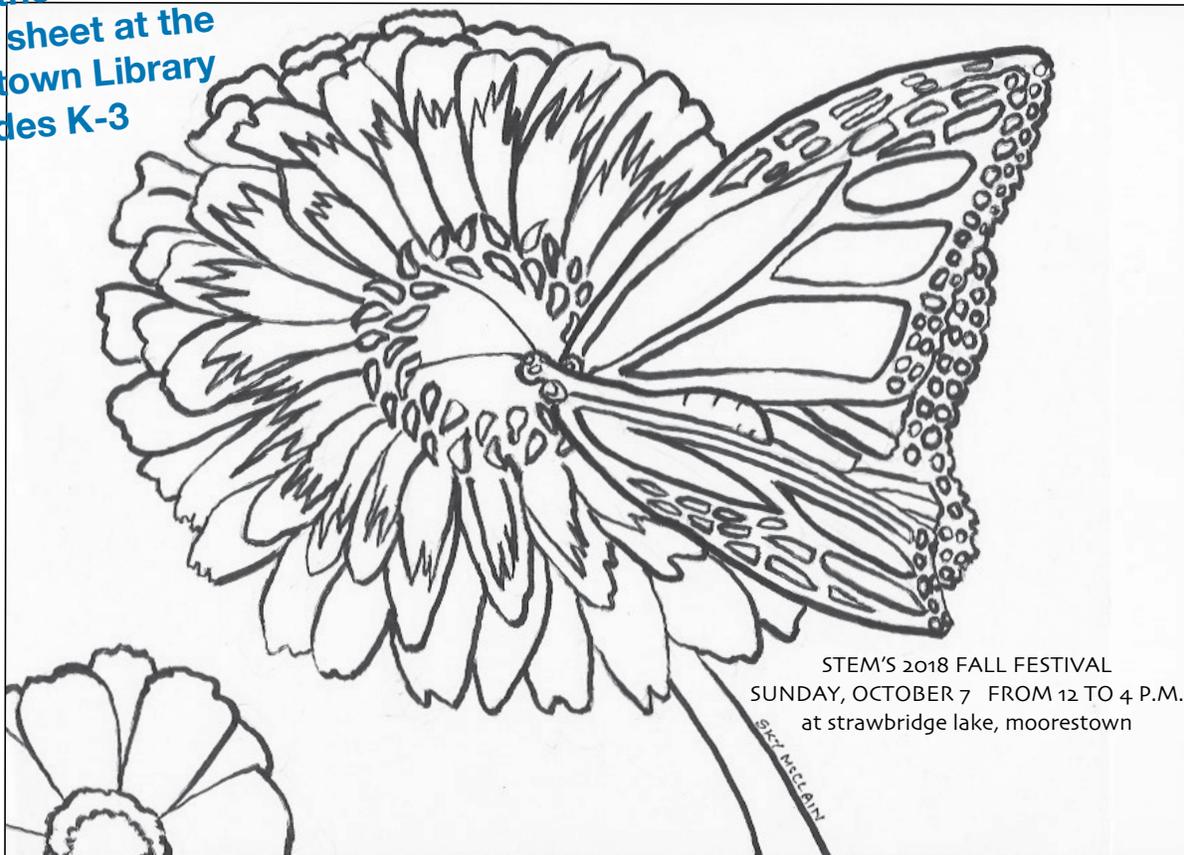
COLORING CONTEST

COPIES AVAILABLE IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION



Pick up the **STEM Coloring**
Contest sheet at the
Moorestown Library
For grades K-3

COLORING CONTEST SPONSORED BY SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF MOORESTOWN



STEM'S 2018 FALL FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 FROM 12 TO 4 P.M.
at strawbridge lake, moorestown



sponsored by **Save The Environment of Moorestown**

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE 2018 STEM FALL FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 NOON TO 4 P.M. (RAIN OR SHINE)
STRAWBRIDGE LAKE AT KINGS HIGHWAY, MOORESTOWN

Admission to the festival is free. Contact kajer3@comcast.net or visit STEM at www.stemonline.org for details.

The Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship, 2018



The Kay Smith/STEM Scholarship award was presented to Kate Foreman at the Senior Recognition Reception on June 11, 2018 at the Moorestown High School Athletic Center by STEM president Joe Ponessa. Kate will pursue an environmental career at Drexel.

The \$1,000 award is presented annually to the Moorestown High School senior who has exhibited outstanding environmental concern and commitment to STEM's mission. The award is named in honor of Kay Smith, a STEM founding member who was active in the organization for decades.

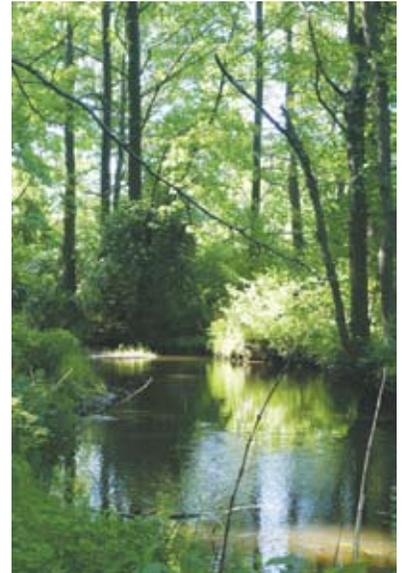
Previous recipients of the award were Kayla Rini (2014), Evelyne Richardson-Thomas (2015), Alexis Angelini (2016), and Reese Balderson (2017).

—Margo Foster

Photos above, Joe Ponessa presents award to Kate Foreman

Progress Made on Esther Yanai Preserve Parking Area on Garwood Road

Pictured below, Swede Run borders the preserve. Hiking trails that traverse through the site will be better accessed when the parking area is completed. Bottom photo shows the initial clearing that occurred recently.



Volunteer projects are available for scout groups & community service hours. Contact Kathy Huffman at: kajer3@comcast.net or 856-778-2201

STEM's Annual Picnic & Photo Contest Recap

STEM's Annual Picnic on June 24 at the home of Dave and Colleen Malloy Lopresti included the judging of STEM'S Nature Photo Contest. Sitting in the shade with friends on a hot, early summer day enhanced the enjoyment of the delicious potluck dinner.

Photo contest judge Bob Laramie analyzed the winning photos and shared



some tips on photo composition for creating a winning picture. Selected images appear on page 6 of this newsletter.

Bill Creekmore, photo contest coordinator, has created a display that will be featured at STEM's Annual Fall Festival at Strawbridge Lake on October 7. Stop by the STEM table for a close-up look. Post-festival, the winning images will be on display at the Moorestown Library.

It's never too soon to take nature photos for next year's contest! Keep your cameras and cell phones ready when you're out and about. Guidelines for the contest are posted on the STEM website www.stemonline.org (under OUTREACH). Bill Creekmore, who has done a great job being in charge of the contest for eight years, is stepping down. STEM needs a volunteer to take over coordination of the Nature Photography contest for next year; contact Betsy Schnorr at 856-235-6348 or email her at betsybjs@aol.com.

—Margo Foster

Thank you to the Lopresti/Malloy family for hosting the 2018 STEM Annual Picnic & "Nature in Moorestown" Photo Contest.

Photos above, from the picnic: from left, back row, Jerry Huffman & John Lestino; middle row, Betsy Schnorr, Susan Buffalino, & Colleen Malloy; front row, Paula Horton & Kathy Huffman.

NATURAL AREA CARE —Caring for the Environment



NAC projects are
now listed on
MeetUp.com

NAC This Fall

It was a good decision not to schedule stewardship projects for the summer—it turned out to be steamy, hot, and humid in July and August. Two Waterworks Woods sessions were scheduled for early September, but both got rained out. So to ready the site for STEM's October Fall Festival, the Monday, September 24 project will switch its focus to the Strawbridge Lake open space.

An additional date has been added to the calendar on Friday, October 12 to accommodate work that needs to be done at South Valley Woods. The project runs from 1 to 4 p.m. and volunteers will meet at the far end of the parking lot behind South Valley School.

In mid-October on Wednesday, the 17th, Pompeston Park downstream of Fernwood Drive will have its maintenance project from 1 to 4 p.m. This site is lesser-known than the trails from Baker School to Georgian Drive, but it has lovely creek-side trails that also meander through a wooded section.

A NAC site leader will direct the activities. Supplies, hand tools, and light refreshments are provided. Dress for the weather and working outdoors. Questions? Contact Kathy Huffman at kajer3@comcast.net.

Pompeston Park Downstream NAC Project

The late spring, with its rainy weather, had left wet, debris-shrewn trails for the TD Bank staff who volunteered on June 15. They spent the morning removing quantities of invasive multiflora rose and clearing the trail of downed trees and branches. The energetic group was able to make fast work of all that needed to get done. They learned about the ecology of the site and how to ID plants and trees along the trail. The session ended with a hike further on the trail to familiarize them with the Downstream area of the site.



Thank you to
TD Bank employees!



Photos on left and above, picture TD Bank employees who have been volunteering with the Natural Area Care Committee and STEM members in 2018. Coordinating with TD Bank has been a successful project. Their staff earn community service credit hours for their efforts. We sincerely appreciate their assistance.

2018 NAC Calendar

Volunteers Always Welcome

Mid/Late March - 3/17
Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve
Creek Road, East of
Borton Landing Road

Early/Mid April - 4/23
Wigmore Acres
NE Corner, Westfield Road
& Bridgeboro Road

Late April - 4/26
Esther Yanai Preserve
Garwood Road@Swede Run
Near Albury Court

Mid-May - 5/10
Pompeston Park Upstream
New Albany Road Near
Iron Post Road

Mid-June - 6/15
Pompeston Park Downstream
New Albany Road Near
Iron Post Road

Early September - 9/8 & 9/11
Waterworks Woods
Kings Highway (entrance between
Strawbridge Lake & Waterworks)

Late September - 9/24
Waterworks Woods
Kings Highway (entrance between
Strawbridge Lake & Waterworks)

Mid-October - 10/12
South Valley Woods
Oldershaw Avenue, behind South
Valley Elementary School

Mid-October - 10/17
Pompeston Park Downstream
of Fernwood Drive
Access from Fernwood Drive

Rain or inclement weather
cancels stewardship projects.
If in doubt:

Contact NAC Co-chairs:
Kathy Huffman at 856-778-2201 &
kajer3@comcast.net or
Paula Horton at 856-296-0798 &
phorton100@comcast.net

NAC Coordinator:
Susan Buffalino at 856-495-4642
& sbuff4@aol.com

Parks & Open Space Inventory Online Now!

Perhaps you have heard about some of the fantastic parks and open spaces here in town? Perhaps you have visited a few in the past? Perhaps you are curious to find out more about what gems exist within the Township? Did you know that there is a wealth of information that is available at your fingertips on the Township's website that can answer all your questions? This information is now available for anyone to access through the Township's GovPilot portal by going directly to <https://main.govpilot.com/web/?id=139&ust=NJ> or by accessing the "Government" tab on the main page of the Township's website (<http://www.moorestown.nj.us/>) and then selecting "GovPilot Services," then "Moorestown GIS Map."

First, some background. Over the years, Moorestown Township with the support of STEM has been proactive in preserving and maintaining our open space as well as improving the Township's current park inventory. As can happen with any change and expansion, it quickly became very easy to lose track of what amenities exist and where they are located. This is a problem not only from a maintenance standpoint, but also from a recreational one, because the resident who wishes to use the facilities doesn't have the

ability to make a fully-informed decision. Currently, there are some well-done brochures to help as a guide, but even these are not all encompassing.

To address this issue, a bit more than a year ago the Sustainable Moorestown Green Team, in partnership

Parks & Open Space Inventory Link

<https://main.govpilot.com/web/?id=139&ust=NJ>

with Town Council, STEM, and other Township Committees took on the task to develop a digital Park and Open Space asset management inventory. This inventory would include not only a detailed accounting of all the Township's parks and open spaces, but also would map and catalog many of the amenities included within them. With hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units supplied by the Burlington County Office of GIS, volunteers spent months visiting each location and recording assets. As a result, the teams were able to catalog 43 recreational areas within the Township. This included 9 miles of hiking trails, 15 miles of multi-purpose paths, 8 miles of pedestrian walkways and 1 mile of internal park roadway. The team also collected over 550 individual points ranging from baseball fields to trash cans within over 1,200 acres of

parks and open space. All of this done at no cost to the taxpayer!

Accessing this information through the link above will take the user to a map portal that will allow one to toggle on and off a variety of layers. By placing a check next to a layer you will see information appear on a street map of

the Township. Then by scrolling and zooming around, the user can maneuver to a particular location. From there one only needs to click on a feature to call up information about it. See a trail you didn't know existed? Click on it and learn things like how long it is, how difficult it is to traverse and many other useful pieces of information. Of course, as time goes on the database will be improved and updated as new features are added, so check back regularly.

For more information on this or to learn about the Green Team, please contact Chris Salvatico or Wolf Skacel, Sustainable Moorestown Green Team at sustainablemoorestown@moorestown.nj.us.

—Chris Salvatico

Pompeston Park Easement Monitoring Scheduled for Thursday, November 1

The Monitoring Group checks the the boundary lines of the 13-acre Pompeston Woods Easement (between Twosome and North Riding Drives) to be certain the old forest area is maintained in its natural state, showing no evidence of encroachment, hunting, trash, or garden waste dumping. The team has been conducting this monitoring for over 21 years and handles all tasks with ease. It's a pleasant walk in the woods on a crisp autumn day. Come join this fantastic neighborhood open space maintenance yearly event!



The monitoring for this year has been scheduled for Thursday, November 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. A rain-date of Thursday, November 8 has also been added to the calendar. If you would like to volunteer for the monitoring, please contact Claire Rollin at cerollin@gmail.com for meeting location and for questions regarding the rain date.

—Claire Rollin

Photo on left: from left, Sue Paoletti, Claire Rollin, Amy Filippone, and Tom Finley pose after the 2017 monitoring event.

Open Space Banners on View in Town Hall

If you haven't had a chance to pay a visit to Moorestown's Town Hall to view the Open Space banners, you are missing a wonderful exhibit. The banners, each 3' X 5', were designed and constructed by local artists inspired by the history and beauty of each site, and executed in a variety of mediums. A number of the banners use acrylic or latex paint on canvas. Several use fabric, either quilted or collaged, to carry out the design. All capture the spirit of the Open Space they represent.

All 15 banners are now arranged chronologically by the date of each site's preservation and hang in the hallway between the library and Council chambers. It's worth making a visit to Town Hall to see these colorful banners commemorating each site, perhaps inspiring a visit to the preserved open space!

The “Nature in Moorestown” Photo Contest Winners!

Thank you—to all who submitted images, to Bill Creekmore, who coordinated the event, and to Bob Laramie, who lent his expertise for the photo judging at the STEM Annual Picnic.

Nature inspires the creative process—

Top row from left:
Adult 3rd Place: “Summer Coming to an End” by Janet Alter; Child 2nd Place: “Sunburst” by Mae Murphy



2nd row from left:
Adult 2nd Place: “Happy Frog” by Marie Sheradan; Adult Honorable Mention: “Turk’s Cap Lily” by Marie Sheradan.



3rd row from left:
Child 3rd Place: “Hole in Tree” by Matthew Strauss; Child 1st Place: “Robin at Sunset” by Mary Grace Laufer.



Bottom row from left: Child Honorable Mention: “Dragon’s Breath” by Mae Murphy; Adult 1st Place: “Nice Day for a Swim” by Janet Alter.



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. Make checks payable to S.T.E.M.

(Please print)

Name _____ Check 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.

Annual Plant Sale on Moorestown Day Celebrated Monarchs & Milkweed



Photo on right: Sky McClain poses with customers in front of the STEM booth on Moorestown Day. Sky's artwork attracted attention and complemented the nice assortment of native plants and backyard donations that were for sale June 2.



Photo above: artist Sky McClain joined the STEM booth on Moorestown Day. She demonstrated her technique to interested attendees. Photo on right: Diane MisKowski, on left, explains the benefits of native milkweed to an interested customer.

**Welcome New
STEM Member**

Betty Bell

**Remember, STEM
members need to renew
annually to keep their
membership current.**

Thank You!

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!



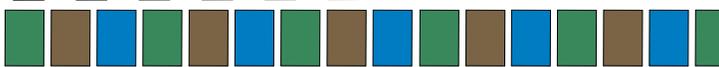
**FALL
2018**

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

**Membership Renewal
Benefits STEM Projects**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, October 7 from noon to 4pm
2018 FALL OPEN SPACE FESTIVAL
Celebrate the Environment
at Strawbridge Lake Park
Kings Hwy. & Haines Drive



2018 FALL FESTIVAL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

NOON TO 4PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

**STRAWBRIDGE LAKE AT KINGS HIGHWAY, MOORESTOWN
FUN FOR ALL AGES!**



sponsored by Save The Environment of Moorestown
ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL IS FREE.

STEM Steering Committee Members for 2018-2019

Joe Ponessa, President; 856-235-6376 & jponessa@comcast.net
Mark Pensiero, Vice-President & Treasurer;
856-235-0171 & mark.w.pensiero@lmco.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

Nanci Clem, Director; 856-866-0065 & nanci2424@yahoo.com
Jean Fox, Director; 856-642-7864 & foxjean62@gmail.com

Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & kajer3@comcast.net
Colleen Malloy, Director; 856-778-7893 & malloydag@comcast.net

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