

Sept. 2015, Volume 44, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

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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2015 OPEN SPACE FESTIVAL

"STEM CELEBRATES SUSTAINABILITY"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 FROM NOON TO 4 P.M. (RAIN OR SHINE)
AT STRAWBRIDGE LAKE & KINGS HIGHWAY



Photo above captures a musical performance from SSO 2014. The day's activities are fun and educational for all ages. Your participation supports Save the Environment of Moorestown's mission.

ADMISSION IS FREE! Sustainability continues to be the buzz word and STEM chose it as the theme for this year's festival. Healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary to the survival of humans and other organisms. Living sustainably reduces negative human impact and gets us back on the road to working with and not against nature. The annual environmental education celebration will be held on the grassy slopes by the Kings Highway dam and Haines Drive. The afternoon will be filled with engaging displays and activities for all ages. See details in the President's Letter below.

Additional info on STEM's Open Space Festival is on page two of this newsletter. Come early, stay late, and you won't miss a thing. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Endres at eenrdes03@gmail.com or see the STEM website at www.stemonline.org.

A Note From the President's Desk

The children are back to school, the days are getting shorter, and the fall growing season is in full swing. I'm excited to see the bursts of color that arrive as some perennials give us a "second show." Chrysanthemums take center stage, and I haven't yet tired of "pumpkin spice" everything. Here at STEM we have been busy all summer maintaining our open spaces and preparing for an exciting fall.

On Sunday, October 4, STEM is hosting our annual fall festival from 12-4pm at Strawbridge Lake. This year's theme is "STEM Celebrates Sustainability." Each year the festival grows in exciting ways—this year will include food trucks, kids' crafts, nature walks, canoeing, live animals, the band "Lost in Brunswick," a kids' fishing contest, environmental displays and activities, the winners of the 2015 coloring contest and photography contest, and more.

Whatever your fall schedule looks like, I hope you can join us for these and the other activities posted on our website: www.stemonline.org. Keep in touch by following STEM on Facebook or joining us on "Meet up.com." All the best to you and yours, Elizabeth

Calendar of Upcoming STEM Events

Sun., October 4

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

Sat., October 10

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

Wed., October 21

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

Fri., November 6

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

Sat., November 8

NAC Conservation Project
Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wed., November 18

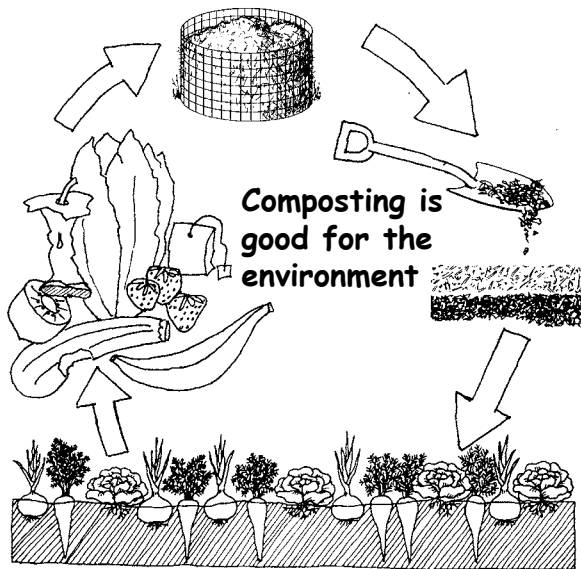
STEM Steering Committee Mtg.
7:00 p.m.

Save The Environment of Moorestown 2015 OPEN SPACE FESTIVAL



STEM CELEBRATES SUSTAINABILITY

Sunday, October 4 from 12-4 p.m. at Strawbridge Lake



Moorestown K-3 Coloring Contest Awards

- Canoe Rentals
- Fishing Contest (for ages 6-15)
- Live Animal Exhibits
- STEM's Photo Contest Winners
- Crafts, Activities & Games for Kids
- NJ Environmental Organizations
- Natural History Info & Activities

Join us for an afternoon
of outdoor activities,
exhibits, displays, and
fun discoveries for all ages.

FREE Admission

Sunday, October 4
from **Noon to 4 p.m.**
at **Strawbridge Lake & Kings**
Hwy., Moorestown
(Rain or Shine)

- Live Music Featuring "Lost in Brunswick"
- ***NEW*** Food Vendors
- Fly Fishing Demos
- Interactive Sustainability Displays
- Naturalist-led Walks
- STEM Open Space Banners
- Mums and Pumpkins for Sale!



Admission to the festival is free, but donations are always appreciated. Proceeds benefit STEM's mission to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural environment of Moorestown. Contact eendres03@gmail.com or visit STEM at www.stemonline.org for details.



**STEM's
"Nature in
Moorestown"
Photo
Contest
Winners
for 2015**

STEM extends a warm thank you to Bob Laramie and Gretchen Rector for their expertise in judging the photo contest, and to Robert Haas, Moorestown High School photography teacher, for encouraging his students to enter.



STEM photo contest coordinator Bill Creekmore received a wonderful assortment of nature-oriented photographs, making it tough to award just 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place honors. This year's winners are (clockwise from top left and ending with the photo above): Adult 2nd Place, "Masked Hunter" by Bill Creekmore; Adult 1st Place, "Birds & Blossoms" by Janet Alter; Student 3rd Place, "Burst of Nature" by Hunter Smith; Student 1st Place, "Avian Aura" by Collette Smith; Adult Honorable Mention, "Snail's Pace" by Schuyler McClain; Student Honorable Mention, "The Allure of Honeysuckle" by Olivia Hart; Adult Honorable Mention, "A Waiting Egret" by Theresa Warger; Student 2nd Place, "Woolly Sunset" by Sarah Varrell. Apologies to Adult 3rd Place winner Jon Hurley for not including his photo, "Center of Interest."



It is great to see such interest in the art of photography—surely the diversity of digital cameras on the market and their ease of operation can account for some of the enthusiasm. A special thank you goes out to all of the photographers who entered this year's competition. They captured the beauty of nature as it interplays with light and allowed STEM to share their expertise with the community. Make sure you stop by the "Nature in Moorestown" Photo Contest display at the Annual Fall Festival being held at Strawbridge Lake on Sunday, October 4, 2015.



NATURAL AREA CARE —Caring for the Environment



NAC projects are
now listed on
MeetUp.com

NAC at Pompeston Park, Downstream of Fernwood Drive

Please join the NAC stewardship project on:

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9:30 -11:30 AM at Pompeston Park (Georgian Drive entrance). Tom Hottenstein, site leader, will be coordinating this event. Maintenance will occur around the south and west edges of the large field and on the trail downstream of Fernwood along the west side of Pompeston Creek. Usual activities include removal of trash, dead trees, and invasive plants. If you are unfamiliar with this site, join the volunteers for the clean-up and have a chance to explore this gem of a park and its unusually long and beautiful trail. Long-sleeved shirt and long pants suggested. Bring work gloves and hand clippers and/or loppers, if possible. Parking is available along Georgian Drive. It is the first left off of North Riding Road after its intersection with Riverton Road. Park along the street at the end of Georgian Drive and look for the NAC signage. Questions? Email Tom at thottenstein@comcast.net.

Recent NAC Projects

Successful stewardship projects were held at Moorestown open space sites this past season including Pompeston Park, Little Woods, and Waterworks Woods. Thank you to volunteers Kathy Huffman, Jean Fox, Kay Smith, Barb Rich, Sue & Mike Lindeboom, Joe & Joan Ponessa, Elizabeth Endres, Susan Buffalino, and Dave Bicking. Our apologies if we missed anyone. Our wildlife thanks you for your support.



Above, mechanical removal of overgrown Spatterdock from Strawbridge Lake.

Strawbridge Lake Update

We are into our second year of studying Strawbridge Lake and are beginning the process of improvements. Last year's bathymetric measurements showed that sediment buildup is occurring throughout the lake, but in particular in the upper lake where the depths now are similar to what they were just prior to the last dredging in 1991. The growth of Spatterdock, an aquatic plant, is very heavy in the upper lake, and a five-day test removal was just completed there. Some disappointment has been heard that more Spatterdock was not removed, but its growth is so extensive and its removal so time-consuming—it needs to be dug out by the roots—that we will be looking at additional removal later this fall or next year. Realistically, it will probably take several years to get it under control.

A fish study, using electric shock, has been conducted for the upper and lower lakes. As the fish were stressed due to unusually high water temperatures in September, they were not removed from the water to weigh and measure. Typical fish found in the lake are the warm water species—predominately blue gills, but also crappie, bass, suckers, bullheads, and carp. Surprisingly, gizzard shad and American eels are also found in the lake. At some point they migrated up the Delaware River and ended up here. The fish population is much higher and healthier in the lower lake. The highest numbers were found in the shaded areas along the wooded shore where there are tree branches in the water. Carp sensed the boat and swam away from it. The largest fish found were carp—up to 27” — along with one bass at 18” and a 25” goldfish. Most bass were small, peaking at around 9.” No other predator species were found. This is a sampling that we hope represents the overall fish population.

Cont'd on page 6.

2015 NAC Calendar

Volunteers Always Welcome

Saturday, March 7

9:30-11:30 am

Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve
Creek Road

Saturday, April 11

9:30-11:30 am

Wigmore Acres
Westfield Road

Saturday, May 2

9:30-11:30 am

Esther Yanai Preserve
Garwood Road@Swede Run

Tuesday, May 19

9:30-11:30 am

Little Woods on the Rancocas
Creek Road@Laurel Creek Blvd.

Saturday, June 13

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road

Saturday, July 11

8:30-10:30 am

Waterworks Woods
Kings Highway@Waterworks

Saturday, August 8

8:30-10:30 am

Little Woods on the Rancocas
Creek Road@Laurel Creek Blvd.

Saturday, September 12

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Downstream
of New Albany Road

Tuesday, September 22

9:30-11:30 am

South Valley Woods
Behind South Valley School

Saturday, October 10

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Downstream
of Fernwood Drive

Saturday, November 8

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road

Stokes Hill, 240 East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ Local Sledding Site has Colorful Past

For decades, people have loved to sled at Stokes Hill, named for an early owner. The privately owned hill was used by the public for years by virtue of an arrangement between the landowner and the Township.

But in 1991, the property was to be sold for development. Fierce public outcry prompted Carol Mastran, local artist and STEM member, to spearhead a “Save Stokes Hill” campaign. Contributors to the cause donated thousands of dollars to help pay for the purchase of the property; those who donated \$10 or more received a reproduction of Carol’s colorful watercolor, “Stokes Hill Sledders.” She led the children of Moorestown to rally strong community support with their lively posters of sledders on the hill. In 1993, after voters had passed the

first non-binding Open Space Referendum that backed the use of Township funds to preserve open space, the 8.3-acre parcel was acquired by the Township. Because of the site’s environmental and recreational value, the Township received funding from the New Jersey Green Acres program. This open space, still used each winter for sledding, includes a wooded area at the bottom of the hill that is part of South Valley Woods.

Contrary to legend, the Flexible Flyer sled, invented and manufactured by Samuel L. Allen, was tested elsewhere—not at Stokes Hill. The sled was patented and introduced in 1889, five years before he moved to his home in Moorestown across the street from the hill. —Margo Foster



Dedication of Stokes Hill Historic Marker— Unveiled Sunday, September 13, 2015

Stokes Hill, Moorestown’s favorite sledding spot on East Main Street, now has its own historic marker to tell its story. Over 40 participants attended an on-site ceremony where the marker was unveiled on September 13. STEM President Elizabeth Endres Hines, Mayor Victoria Napolitano, and Parks & Recreation Department Director Theresa Miller each spoke.

Several family members of the late Carol Mastran were present, including her husband, John, and daughter Betsy Mastran Small. Carol used her

artistic talents, leadership, and enthusiasm to lead a campaign with the children of Moorestown, STEM, and the community at large, to save the hill from development in 1991.

STEM is pleased to have been a part of the installation of this permanent reminder of the hill’s history and would like to give special recognition to Margo Foster who initiated the discussion and coordinated all aspects of the project.

Photos on this page:

Top right, Stokes Hill Open Space banner, 1993, designed by Carol Mastran and created by STEM quilters.

On left, Stokes Hill marker dedication ceremony attendees, from left, Victoria Napolitano (Moorestown Mayor), Margo Foster (STEM project leader), Stacey Jordan (Town Council), Theresa Miller (Moorestown Parks and Recreation Department), John Mastran (husband of Carol), Greg Newcomer (Town Council), Barb Rich (STEM and Open Space Advisory Committee.), Elizabeth Endres Hines (STEM President), Phil Garwood (Town Council).

On right, John Mastran and Victoria Napolitano.

Stokes Hill Marker Text

For decades a favorite sledding spot, this hill was to be sold for development in 1991. Fierce public outcry prompted local artist Carol Mastran to begin a fundraising campaign to “Save Stokes Hill.” She sold hill-related artwork and rallied the school children to help. Their posters of sledders on the hill papered the chambers of Town Council, who applied for New Jersey Green Acres funding. A combination grant and loan was awarded in 1993 to purchase this 8.3-acre property as Open Space.

Save the Environment of Moorestown



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!

Sustainable Moorestown – Green Fair Saturday, September 26, 2015

On Saturday, September 26, Sustainable Moorestown is hosting a Green Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Strawbridge Lake tot lot/playground. STEM will present information to the community about our 15 fabulous open spaces, including how to access them. These sites are the perfect place to take a relaxing stroll or an invigorating hike.

We will also be demonstrating how to successfully accomplish suburban composting. The community has embraced curbside recycling of plastics, paper, glass, and metal cans, but many are unaware of how easy it is to further reduce our “tipping fees” and lessen the impact on landfills. This can be accomplished by recycling kitchen scraps into compost. When the scraps have decomposed, the resulting material—organic fertilizer or “black gold”—can then be returned to the garden or landscaping beds as soil amendment.

—Elizabeth Endres



Photo above by Chet Dawson shows Barb Rich dwarfed by masses of invasive Japanese knotweed at Strawbridge Lake.

Strawbridge Lake Update-Continued from page 4

Our next step is to see if we can remove the large amount of Japanese Knotweed that is growing along the upper lake bank. We need to begin an overall study of the watershed to try to determine where problems occur and if there is anything that can be done.

This year’s water testing included the Hooten and Pennsauken Creeks. We don’t have the results back yet, but it is interesting to note that the Hooten Creek was running clear and the Pennsauken Creek had the same turbidity as the lake itself. On a positive note, we are seeing fewer numbers of geese than in the past. A possible explanation is that the hard winter this past year may have reduced their numbers, as they don’t migrate, but we don’t know for sure.

—Chet Dawson



Photo far left: Bob Laramie and Gretchen Rector judge the “Nature in Moorestown” Photo Contest. Photo near left: Robert Haas, Moorestown High School photography teacher explains good techniques. Photo above: Walt and Jean Fox relax at the STEM picnic in June.

STEM Awards \$1,000 Environmental Scholarship to Evelyn Richardson Thomas

Each year, STEM selects a graduating high school senior to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. This year’s recipient is Evelyn Richardson Thomas, Moorestown High School class of 2015. Scholarship candidates submit written entries and Evelyn’s essay showed a dedication to and leadership toward the recycling efforts at the high school which won her praise and selection by the STEM evaluation committee. Evelyn is attending Fairleigh Dickinson University this fall and plans for a career in education. Everyone at STEM wishes her much success in the future.



Photo above: Elizabeth Endres (left, STEM president) and Evelyn Richardson Thomas (Moorestown High School class of 2015 graduate and STEM \$1000 scholarship recipient).

—Elizabeth Endres

The Annual Picnic & Photo Judging

STEM hosted a dinner/photo judging for its members on Sunday, June 28, 2015. The pot-luck affair was held at the home of STEM President Elizabeth Endres Hines and her husband,



Mark Hines. Great company, a delicious menu, an exciting photo judging event combined with a lovely setting made for a festive afternoon. The results of the Photo Contest appear on page 3. Thank you to the Endres Hines family for sharing their home.



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.

Moorestown Independence Day Parade— Saturday, July 4, 2015

A small but enthusiastic group from STEM participated in Moorestown's Fourth of July Parade. We met beforehand to decorate Elizabeth Endres' Prius with streamers and bunting (with help from Jean Fox), and then moved on to the staging area on Chester Avenue. The parade started promptly at noon, under threatening skies. While Elizabeth, Margo Foster, Jean Fox, and Joan Ponessa handed out candy to the young spectators and distributed fliers promoting the upcoming STEM 2015 Fall Festival, Joe Ponessa piloted the Prius. As you can imagine, there were a lot of happy faces lining the streets—and we avoided the rain!



A bit of history: Although today we celebrate our independence from England on July 4, the passage of the Declaration of Independence actually took place on July 2, 1776, but was not signed until August 2. On July 8, the Declaration was read aloud in Philadelphia in the State House Yard. Then the drums pounded, five battalions paraded through the city, bells rang, thirteen blasts of cannon were fired, bonfires and candles were lit to celebrate the joy that the people felt upon having the issue of breaking ties with England decided after months of deliberation.

Important traditions last over the years, and thanks to Dave Schill and his crew of volunteers, Moorestown joins in celebrating the day.

After 239 years, we may tend to forget the reason behind our parades and picnics, but the creation of our then new country is worth celebrating.

—Margo Foster and Joseph Ponessa



Photos above: top, the decorated "STEM" vehicle as it drives down Main Street during the July 4th parade; bottom, Kathy Huffman and Mary Pensiero relax at the STEM Picnic in June.



FALL 2015

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 4 from noon to 4pm
2015 OPEN SPACE FESTIVAL
"STEM Celebrates Sustainability"
At Strawbridge Lake, Kings Hwy. & Haines Dr.
Details on Pages 1 & 2

AREA EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015-** Birding at Boundary Creek, 9am, w/ naturalist Jen Bulava, preregister @ 609-265-5858
- Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015-** Pompeston Park Hike, 10am. SJ Outdoor Club, Leader-Dave Bicking, meet in Moorestown Municipal parking lot (across from library)
- Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015-** Palmyra Cove Birding Challenge, 7am & 9am-afternoon, Lloyd Shaw, leader, preregister @ 609-261-2495, \$15-20/per person
- Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015-** Fall Foliage Family Float Festival, 9am-4pm, Smithville Park, 803 Smithville Rd., Eastampton, 609-265-5858. Free canoe/kayak till 2pm
- Saturday/Sunday, Oct. 18-19, 2015-** 32th Annual Cranberry Festival, 9am-4pm, Chatsworth, 609-726-9237.
- Friday, Nov. 6, 2015-** Nature in Art for Preschoolers, 10-11am, Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Rd., Westampton, 609-261-2495, preregister, visit website
- Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015-** Rancocas Historic Site Tour, 10:30am-12pm, Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Rd., Westampton, 609-261-2495, preregister, visit website
- Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015-** 101 Great Birds Around the World, 7:30pm, Mark Garland, BCNSC, Lumberton Leas, 180 Woodside Dr., Lumberton, www.bcnscc.org
- Saturday/Sunday, Nov. 14-15, 2015-** Overnight Outdoor Adventure, 6:30pm-10am, BurlCo Park Rangers, N. Hanover Twp., preregister @ 609-265-5858

STEM Steering Committee Members for 2015-2016

Elizabeth Endres Hines, President; 856-222-1163 & eendres03@gmail.com
 Joe Ponesa, Vice-president; 856-235-6376 & jponessa@comcast.net
 Mark Pensiero, Treasurer; 856-235-0171 & mark.w.pensiero@lmco.com
 Susan Buffalino, Sec. & Newsletter Ed.; 856-866-9506 & sbuff4@aol.com
 Claire Rollin Adair, Director; 856-727-3830 & cerollin@gmail.com
 Margo Foster, Director; 856-235-5862 & mcmfoster@yahoo.com
 Jean Fox, Director; 856-642-7864 & foxjean62@gmail.com
 Paula Horton, Director; 856-296-0798 & phorton100@comcast.net
 Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & kajer3@comcast.net
 Diane Miskowski, Director; 856-235-6523 & dmiskowski@emsl.com
 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 Elizabeth Endres Hines, President; 856-222-1163 & eendres03@gmail.com

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