

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

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

March 2018, Volume 47, Issue 1

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## ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION & SPRING PRESENTATION

**Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 7-9 p.m.**

- ◇ HEAR a summary of STEM 2017-18 activities
  - ◇ VOTE for the Slate of Proposed Officers & Directors
  - ◇ LEARN about the "Rancocas Creek National Water Trail Initiative" presented by Rancocas Pathways
- Meet at the Moorestown Community House  
16 East Main Street, Moorestown

**FREE**

We are already into March and the first day of spring is just around the corner! STEM invites members and the general public to its Annual Meeting. In addition to accepting the proposed slate of Officers and Directors, STEM hosts a presentation by Rancocas Pathways on the Rancocas Creek and its proposed designation as a National Parks Service Bluewater Trail.

Rancocas Pathways, a local non-profit, has worked closely with creek municipalities and the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry in preparing the official application. They are promoting recreational use of the creek and encouraging and facilitating stewardship and maintenance of the waterway. The illuminating presentation will explore the creek's history, industrialization, its 400 years of maritime heritage (including Moorestown's historic use of the creek), and upcoming recreational opportunities for teens and adults. Additional information on Rancocas Pathways is at [www.rcnwt.com](http://www.rcnwt.com).



*A serene view of the Rancocas Creek is pictured above; photo courtesy of Google Images.*

Mark your calendar and join STEM for an informative evening. Learn about a historic designation that's in the works and how you can enjoy kayaking close to home. Light refreshments will be available. Details—contact Joe Ponessa at [jponessa@comcast.net](mailto:jponessa@comcast.net).

## Calendar of Upcoming STEM Events

### **Thursday, March 22**

STEM Annual Meeting  
Moorestown Community Center  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Mid-April (date TBD)**

NAC Conservation Project  
Wigmore Acres  
NE of Westfield & Bridgeboro Roads

### **Wednesday, April 18**

STEM Steering Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### **Late April (date TBD)**

NAC Conservation Project  
Esther Yanai Preserve  
Garwood Road near Albury Court

### **Mid-May (date TBD)**

NAC Conservation Project  
Pompeston Park, Upstream  
Near New Albany & Iron Post Roads

### **Wednesday, May 16**

STEM Steering Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

## **A Note from the President's Desk**

A recurring theme in our columns over the past few years has been Moorestown's wonderful open spaces, and our wish to see more utilization of these amenities by the citizens of our town. Towards this end, we have been working on two initiatives to make these preserved areas better known and more accessible.

A modest success has been attained recently with the placement of signage at the corner of Haines Drive and Kings Highway directing visitors to the well-hidden trail-head of Waterworks Woods. The entrance leads to a lakeside trail that provides nice vistas of Strawbridge Lake from the "other side," particularly in the winter with the absence of foliage. This lower trail continues to skirt the lake and eventually dead ends at Nixon Drive. It also connects to the upper trail that loops around the old swimming hole and leads to the upland area with a stand of old American Beech trees.

The new Waterworks Woods sign, pictured on page 3, features a description of the site, along with a detailed trail map showing some points of interest, courtesy of skilled mapmaker Chris Salvatico (continued on page 2).

—Joseph Ponessa

**Annual Meeting Presentation:  
“The Rancocas Creek  
National Water Trail Initiative”**

STEM’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018 will include an evening presentation by Program Director John Anderson of Rancocas Pathways where he will detail Moorestown’s unique and distinctive role in the Rancocas Creek National Water Trail Initiative.

Hidden in plain sight, the Creek’s 400 years of maritime heritage will come to life through stories, photos, and anecdotes of the Rancocas Creek tidewaters flowing by Moorestown’s boundary along the creek. Discover sand mines, “Texas,” Borton Landing, wildlife, migratory animals, seals and other mammals, sailing shallows, and New Jersey’s Great Polygon of Green.

Images of wildlife encountered along the creek are included in the presentation as well as artifacts that allow participants to “feel” the heritage and history. In short, the presentation appreciates the who, what, when, where, and how the Rancocas Creek National Water Trail Initiative came about and how you can get involved.

Visit the Rancocas Pathways website at [www.rcnwt.com](http://www.rcnwt.com) for additional information about this Westampton, New Jersey 501(c)(3) organization.

—John Anderson

**Stay Active Environmentally  
Dedicate Time for Volunteering  
Renew Your STEM Membership  
Vote at the Annual Meeting—March 22**

**STEM STEERING COMMITTEE  
2018-2019 PROPOSED SLATE**

**President (2-year term): Joseph Ponessa**  
**Vice-president (2-year term): Mark Pensiero**  
 (completing 2nd year of term)  
**Treasurer (2-year term): Mark Pensiero**  
**Secretary (2-year term): Paula Horton**  
**Directors: 1-year terms**  
**Claire Rollin Adair**  
**Susan Buffalino (Newsletter Editor)**  
**Jean Fox**  
**Kathy Huffman**  
**Colleen Malloy**  
**Joan Ponessa**  
**Betsy Schnorr**  
**MHSEC Representative**

**2018-19 Nominating Committee:**

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

*Submitted by 2017-18 Nominating Committee:  
Claire Rollin Adair, Kathy Huffman, and Barb Rich*

**Save  
The  
Environment of  
Moorestown**

**Thou who sometimes travellest**

*J. Woolman*

**Rancocas Creek National Water Trail Initiative:  
Highlighting 400 Years of  
Moorestown's Maritime Heritage**

Evening Presentation by Rancocas Pathways  
National Water Trail Initiative Manager

[www.rcnwt.com](http://www.rcnwt.com)

**Thursday March 22, 2018**      **7 - 830 PM**  
**Moorestown Community House**      **16E. Main St**

Contact at STEM: Kathy Huffman [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net)  
 Photo: Borton Landing - Moorestown - Rancocas Creek

Poster above, created by Rancocas Pathways Program Director John Anderson, advertises the presentation scheduled for the STEM Annual Meeting at the Community House.

**A Note From the President’s Desk** (continued from page 1)

In addition, conversations with the Township regarding access to parks is ongoing. Construction of parking facilities at two locations, Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve on Creek Road and Esther Yanai Preserve on Garwood Road has been discussed. Progress on a parking area for the Esther Yanai site, named in honor of STEM founder Esther Yanai, was boosted by a generous donation from her husband, Steve Yanai. Thank you to Steve, who presented a check to Moorestown Town Council in November (see photos on page 5). If things go as planned, work will begin in the spring.

Finally, we are sorry to announce that two of our Steering Committee members have stepped down. We would like to acknowledge the years of service of Elizabeth Endres and Diane Miskowski. We thank them for their great energy and valued contributions, and hope that we can tap them for their expertise from time to time in the future.

—Joseph Ponessa

STEM, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057  
 Visit us online at [www.stemonline.org](http://www.stemonline.org).  
 Our newsletter looks great in color!

## Strawbridge Lake Big Year Recap

Way back in October 2016, I set out to do a Big Year “lite” at Strawbridge Lake and Waterworks Woods. I wasn’t out to break any records, but merely to see as many species of birds as I could in a one-year period.

I set a totally arbitrary goal of sighting 100 species during the year, but unfortunately came up a bit short with a final tally of 85 species. I’m not making excuses, but the fall of 2017 was filled with many family commitments and my time spent birding in August, September, and October was practically nil.

Fall is perhaps the best season for birding; the same migrating birds that were in such a big rush to get on their northern breeding grounds in the spring are far more leisurely on their return trip south. Unfortunately, events took me out of the game this year, as I missed most of the active fall season.

Looking back over the list there are some fairly regular resident and migratory birds that surprisingly did not get picked up during the year. Among those who didn’t make the list were House Wren, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers, Brown Thrasher, and Fox Sparrow. Perhaps the biggest surprise of all was that I never was able to get my glasses on a single Rock Dove—the common pigeon. But even if I had managed to tally them and a few more, I still would have fallen short of the magical 100 species.

Among my favorite sightings over the year was that of a beautiful, male Wood Duck perched in a tree. While I searched for a nest, I was never able to find one nor did I see any baby “Woodies” paddling around the lake. Perhaps the most unusual sighting was a male Wood Duck grazing on the grass along the lake, surrounded by a group of mallards. It is the one and only time I have seen a Wood Duck out of the water (unless it was in a tree). I can only guess that he did not get the memo about birds of a feather flocking together.

Over the course of the year I tallied eleven species of warblers, including Black-throated Blue, American Redstart, Blackpoll, Black and White, Tennessee, Ovenbird, and Northern Parula. There also was a good showing of woodpeckers, including all of the common resident species including Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, and Northern Flicker. Additionally, I had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a winter visitor from the north.

There was a pretty strong showing of raptors as well, with regular sightings of Red-tailed Hawks, along with Sharp Shinned and Coopers Hawks, Osprey, and Bald Eagles. Both vulture species, Black and Turkey, were also seen on numerous occasions. There was a pair of adult Bald Eagles that were seen regularly along the lake near Waterworks Woods. Unfortunately, the extremely cold weather in early January forced them off to find open water. Hopefully, they ended up nesting somewhere nearby.

In addition to the year-round Song Sparrow and winter-visiting White-throated Sparrow, I had two fairly uncommon species—Savannah and Field Sparrow. Both of them were seen in the spring.

—Mark Pensiero



Photos above, clockwise from lower left: a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from the Rancocas Nature Center archives; a 2017 STEM Photo Contest winner, “Yellow Warbler” by T. Warger; a Hermit Thrush courtesy of National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Bull & Farand, Jr.; and “Wood Duck,” a 2017 STEM Photo Contest Honorable Mention by C. Hernandez.

### Look For Newly Installed Waterworks Woods Signage

As described in the “Note From the President’s Desk,” on page one of this newsletter, the Waterworks Woods sign sits near the corner of Kings Highway and Haines Drive (photo on left). It features a description of the site along with a detailed trail map showing some points of interest, courtesy of skilled mapmaker Chris Salvatico. Most are familiar with Strawbridge Lake Park, but set aside time to explore this wonderful “old” open space—the new signage should help with navigating the various trails. Parking is available on Haines Drive.



# NATURAL AREA CARE —Caring for the Environment



Looking forward to  
seeing you at one of the  
NAC Projects

## The 2018 NAC Season Begins in March

After completing the 2017 NAC season in October, the NAC leadership committee reorganized and took a hard look at the state of preserved open spaces that the group of STEM volunteers manages. Visits to sites of concern were scheduled, sites were evaluated, and discussions about each site's needs followed. What grew out of the assessments was a new approach to open space management and stewardship.

Gone are the traditional "Second Saturday" of each month and two mid-week maintenance projects with a schedule that ran from March to October. Also eliminated are the sessions in July and August. Taking a cue from one of the 2017 STEM Strategic Priorities—"Building a Coalition with Other Organizations"—the NAC Committee is connecting with area businesses, schools, and scout and church groups and scheduling the environmental projects mostly on weekdays to accommodate these new groups of volunteers who need to keep their weekends free.

As the start of the season has been promoted, we have gotten a positive response. A tentative schedule has been drafted (see listings on right), but exact dates and times will be sent monthly and bi-monthly via STEM email blasts and posted on the website to invite members and the general community to join the clean-ups.

Each session still has 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 a hike, as appropriate.

For additional information, please contact NAC:  
Chairperson Kathy Huffman at 856-778-2201 & [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net) or  
Co-chairperson Paula Horton at 856-296-0798 & [phorton100@comcast.net](mailto:phorton100@comcast.net) or  
Coordinator Susan Buffalino at 856-495-4642 & [sbuff4@aol.com](mailto:sbuff4@aol.com)

## Coming Up This Spring

**Mid/Late March**—Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve, Creek Road

**Early/Mid April**—Wigmore Acres, Westfield & Bridgeboro Roads

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



## The Esther Yanai Memorial Walk

Annually, usually on the first Sunday in December, STEM schedules a walk in memory of Esther Yanai, a founding member who passed away in the mid-1990s. Esther was a tireless supporter of environmental stewardship and was instrumental in forwarding the efforts to preserve areas in Moorestown identified as environmentally sensitive. Along with Barb Rich, Kay Smith, and Renee Boulis, Esther left a mark on policy that STEM strives to continue today.

This year's event took place on December 3, 2017. Approximately 15 participants, including Joe & Joan Ponessa, Kay Smith, Dave Bicking, Walt & Jean Fox, Kathy Huffman, Paula Horton, and others enjoyed a walk on the Waterworks Woods trails that continued around Strawbridge Lake.

## 2018 NAC Calendar

Volunteers Always Welcome

**Mid/Late March**  
Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve  
Creek Road, East of  
Borton Landing Road

**Early/Mid April**  
Wigmore Acres  
NE Corner, Westfield Road  
& Bridgeboro Road

**Late April**  
Esther Yanai Preserve  
Garwood Road@Swede Run  
Near Albury Court

**Mid-May**  
Pompeston Park Upstream  
New Albany Road Near  
Iron Post Road

**Mid-June**  
Pompeston Park Downstream  
New Albany Road Near  
Iron Post Road

**Early/Mid September**  
Waterworks Woods  
Kings Highway (entrance between  
Strawbridge Lake & Waterworks

**Late September**  
South Valley Woods  
Oldershaw Avenue, Behind South  
Valley Elementary School

**Mid-October**  
Pompeston Park Downstream  
of Fernwood Drive  
Access from Fernwood Drive



## Esther Yanai Preserve on Garwood Road to Gain Parking Area

STEM has been advocating for parking areas at several of the Moorestown open spaces. In a recent event, Steve Yanai offered to donate funds toward this end.

Steve was recognized for his donation to STEM that was to be used for part of the costs incurred by the Township for this project. At the November 17, 2017 Moorestown Town Council meeting, STEM Vice-president Elizabeth Endress, along with Steve, presented a check for \$25,000.00 to Moorestown Mayor Manny Delgado (photo on left).

STEM will be following up on the progress of the parking area installation to ensure its success and has planned a late April Natural Area Care stewardship



session to reblaze existing trails at the site and potentially add an additional one. The photo on the left shows the banner that was created in honor of the site's preservation in 2004.

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

## What's the Buzz About the Proposed NJ Regulations Impacting Beekeepers?

In November, 2017 a draft bill was introduced into the NJ legislature to register all non-commercial (backyard) beekeepers in the State of New Jersey and prohibit the raising of all bees in man-made structures in any land less than ¼ acre in size (commercial apiaries are already regulated).

After much negative publicity in local and regional newspapers and reaction from beekeeping associations and hobbyists, I was asked by STEM to write an article for its newsletter on the proposed legislation. In reviewing the rule proposal, I admit that I saw merit in the proposed rule because its intent is not to hassle beekeeping hobbyists but to maintain the health of New Jersey's native and honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) populations.

Why is managing bee populations important? Bees, just like any other living thing, are subject to evolutionary stressors such as overpopulation, habitat loss, invasive plant species, competition for food and water, climate change, and last but not least, disease. Since bee keeping as a hobby has grown in popularity, there are both national and state regulations to manage both honey and native bee populations to prevent serious population decline in both groups. According to the Xerces Society, a group dedicated to the conservation of pollinators and other insects, honey bees do transmit disease to native bee popula-

tions (and vice versa) by contaminating nectar flowers with the pathogens that cause colony collapse disorder and viral bee diseases. There is also evidence that suggests that our invasive, non-native plant species are preferentially pollinated by honey bees. This increases invasive plant populations and causes further stress on our native bee populations due to lack of nectar from the native plants that they evolved with and prefer.

Both native bees and honey bees support the reproduction of about 85% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of global crop production. Pollinators consist of bees, wasps, ants, butterflies, birds, flies, and moths, but bees are the most important group of pollinators in temperate climates. There are roughly 4000 species of bees in North America and most of these are native bees, not honey bees, as most people believe.

Honey bees were introduced in the USA in the early 17th century by Europeans for wax and honey production. Since then they have become the most managed crop pollinator in the US and are responsible for more than \$15 billion in crop production annually. What most people don't know is that crops such as tomatoes, squash, peppers, melons, berries, and tree fruits are best pollinated by native bees, not honey bees. Native,

unmanaged bees are more effective pollinators on an individual basis, than are honey bees.



Besides their importance in agriculture, bees are also keystone species in all terrestrial ecosystems. They pollinate plants that produce seeds and fruit that feed songbirds, bears, small animals, and large mammals. If we lose our bees, we would eventually lose humans, too. All living things are interconnected in ways that science has yet to recognize.

Raising any type of bee requires the commitment to raise them responsibly. This means providing enough flowering, native plants throughout the growing season to provide the nectar they need as food. An unstagnant water source is a critical component that is often overlooked by beekeepers. Bees drink.

—Diane Miskowski

## Enter STEM's 20th 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:

- a. Photos must be taken in Moorestown (after June 2017)
- b. Subjects should be predominantly natural as opposed to man-made
- c. Submit small color panoramas or prints up to 5" X 7"
- d. Digital editing and adjustment are acceptable, but no photo montages
- e. Mail entries to:  
STEM, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057 by June 1, 2018  
or bring them to the STEM Annual Picnic in June (date to be announced)
- f. A maximum of 4 entries per person will be accepted
- g. 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:

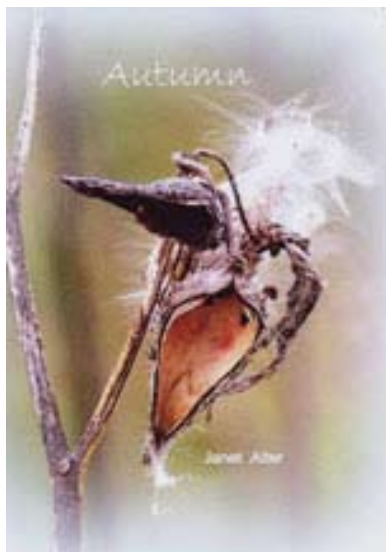
1. Title of picture
2. Name and address of photographer
3. Location of photo
4. Month and year of photo
5. Arrow pointing to the top of the picture
6. Adult or child category

Direct all questions to:

Bill Creekmore at [w2dp@comcast.net](mailto:w2dp@comcast.net)  
or 856-461-8717.



Photos of 2017 contest winners are below: from left, "Mirror Image," Honorable Mention by T. Warger; "Autumn," Third Place, by J. Alter; and "Honey, I'm Home," First Place, by B. Doreste.



## Photographer Albert Horner Presents at Annual Joint Meeting

The Moorestown Library was the site of this year's Joint Meeting—sponsored by STEM, the Historical Society, The Garden Club, Moorestown Improvement Association, and the Pompeston Creek Watershed Association. The guest seaker was photographer Albert Horner, a resident of the N.J. Pinelands.

Horner is an award-winning fine art photographer whose images distill the quiet beauty and intimate landscapes of New Jersey's Pinelands National Reserve. Self-taught, he brings a practiced eye to his craft, choosing the natural world with its oak and pine forests, cedar swamps, waterways and native wildflowers as his primary subject matter.

Living in the Pine Barrens area, and having roamed around the Pines most all of his life, Horner has the unique advantage of knowing the area well and using the seasons, weather, and lighting to produce fine art landscape photographs.

The 1.1 million-acre Pinelands National Reserve is New Jersey's largest environmental resource. As a Pinelands Preservation Alliance board member, Horner uses his art to advocate on behalf of the ecologically important region, giving presentations and gallery shows.

His latest book was available for purchase and signing after the presentation. A photo of the artist appears on the right.

## 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.



# 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.

The Glory of Gardening:  
hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.

To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body,  
but the soul.

— Alfred Austin



## **SAVE THE DATE—Saturday, June 2, 2018 STEM Plant Sale on Moorestown Day**

When the temperature went into the 70's and 80's earlier in the season and the tree buds emerged and the snow bells and crocuses peeked through the leaf litter, it looked like spring was coming early this year. But several winter storms later, gardeners can't wait for the start of the growing season.

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, shows former Lumberton resident and Master Gardener Frank Victor's backyard garden at its peak in the summer months. Planted to attract an assortment of wildlife, it provides the resources they need to survive. Most of the plants are perennials that 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](mailto: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!

### ***In Memorium:***

***STEM sends its sincerest condolences to the family of STEM member Derwood Clem who passed away this winter.***



**SPRING  
2018**

Save the Environment of Moorestown  
P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[www.stemonline.org](http://www.stemonline.org)

*\*Membership Renewal  
Benefits STEM Projects\**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**2018 STEM ANNUAL MEETING & PRESENTATION**  
**Thursday, March 22 from 7 to 9 pm**  
Election of the Steering Committee for 2018-19  
Presentation: "Rancocas Creek National Water Trail Initiative"  
Meet at the Moorestown Community House  
Details on Page 1—All are welcome

**STEM Strategic Planning Session –  
Scheduled for Sunday, April 8, 2018  
Interested in Attending?**

STEM's Steering Committee normally schedules a date in late January or early February for a strategic planning session. This year's date was moved to April, but the agenda remains the same—to review the organization's accomplishments in 2017 and plan the focus for 2018.

Priorities for 2017-18 were:

- Natural Area Care & Open Space Management
- Membership Expansion, Engagement, & Participation
- Building of Coalitions with Other Organizations
- Promoting Use of Native Plants in Public & Private Areas

If you share STEM's mission, consider attending an upcoming Steering Committee meeting. The group meets monthly on the third Wednesday. Contact STEM President Joe Ponezza for meeting location (contact information on the right).

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Membership Renewal**  
STEM recently mailed a membership renewal letter. Please use the envelope provided and renew now!  
\*\*\*\*\*

STEM Steering Committee Members for 2017-2018

- Joe Ponezza, President; 856-235-6376 & [jponessa@comcast.net](mailto:jponessa@comcast.net)
  - Elizabeth Endres, Vice-President; 856-222-1163 & [eendres03@gmail.com](mailto:eendres03@gmail.com)
  - Mark Pensiero, Treasurer; 856-235-0171 & [mark.pensiero99@gmail.com](mailto:mark.pensiero99@gmail.com)
  - Paula Horton, Secretary; 856-296-0798 & [phorton100@comcast.net](mailto:phorton100@comcast.net)
  - Claire Rollin Adair, Director; 856-727-3830 & [cerollin@gmail.com](mailto:cerollin@gmail.com)
  - Susan Buffalino, Director & Newsletter Ed.; 856-866-9506 & [sbuff4@aol.com](mailto:sbuff4@aol.com)
  - Jean Fox, Director; 856-642-7864 & [foxjean62@gmail.com](mailto:foxjean62@gmail.com)
  - Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net)
  - Diane Miskowski, Director; 856-235-6523 & [miskowskid@gmail.com](mailto:miskowskid@gmail.com)
  - Joan Ponezza, Director; 856-235-6376 & [joanponessa@comcast.net](mailto:joanponessa@comcast.net)
  - Betsy Schnorr, Director; 856-235-6348 & [betsybjs@aol.com](mailto: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 Ponezza, President; 856-235-6376 & [jponessa@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:cerollin@gmail.com)
- Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net)
- Barb Rich at 856-234-2787 & [barbrich37ec@gmail.com](mailto:barbrich37ec@gmail.com)