



May 2012, Volume 41, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012

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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Saturday, June 2

STEM Annual Plant Sale
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 9

NAC Conservation Project
Esther Yanai Preserve
Garwood Road@Swedes Run
8:30-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 16

STEM Annual Picnic
Schnorr Residence
435 E. Main Street, Moorestown
4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 20

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

Saturday, July 14

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

Wednesday, July 18

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

Saturday, August 11

NAC Conservation Project
Little Woods & SS Halbe Preserve
Creek Road
8:30-10:30 a.m.

STEM TURNS **40** IN 2012!

With forty years under its belt, STEM has much to show for its efforts. The most visible are the 13 preserved sites that are scattered throughout the Township. Each open space is well-known to its neighbors and frequent visitors. Young and old use the land as it was intended—as passive recreational sites where hiking and wildlife viewing are enjoyable ways to rejuvenate the spirit.

STEM's mission also focuses on environmental education. Its knowledgeable members connect with the public during annual events in January (at the Joint Meeting), in March (at STEM's Annual Meeting), in June (during the Moorestown Day Plant Sale), and in October (at the SSO Fall Festival). Each of these events aims to provide engaging information about current environmental topics using a variety of formats including speakers, videos, exhibits, displays, and tours. Visit the STEM website at www.stemonline.org to learn more about the organization.

It is through the ongoing efforts of STEM's Natural Area Care volunteers that many of the open spaces feature maintained trails for all to use. All are encouraged to join monthly maintenance events, and stronger participation for 2012 is important. See pages 4 and 5 for upcoming events.

STEM's ANNUAL PLANT SALE **on Moorestown Day—Saturday, June 2nd**

Downtown Moorestown will be a buzz of activity on the first Saturday in June. Plan to spend some time on Main Street that day, and don't forget to stop by the STEM booth for its Annual Plant Sale.

Hard-to-find native plants will be the featured attraction, but an assortment of potted herbs and a nice selection of hardy, donated varieties will also be on sale. Plant a few natives each year and before you know it, your yard will have been converted into a wildlife-friendly haven that matches your commitment to the environment.

Look for STEM's display in front of the Baptist Church near Carl's Shoes on Main Street. Knowledgeable volunteers will man the booth all day, can help with your selection, and offer gardening advice.

The Plant Sale is STEM's only fundraising event of the year. To donate plants for the sale, please contact Nanci Clem at 856-866-0065 or nclem91397@comcast.net. All proceeds from the Plant Sale go toward the STEM mission.



*Photo: Purple Coneflowers (Echinacea purpurea)
courtesy of North Creek Nursery*

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!



STEM's 12th Annual "Nature in Moorestown" Photo Contest

Moorestown is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. Each year, STEM sponsors a photo contest and encourages photographers of all ages to capture the beauty of local flora, fauna, and landscapes. Winning entries will have the opportunity to be shared with family, friends, and neighbors through STEM's displays and website. It's a snap! Your nature photo could be a winner.

The rules:

All photos must have been taken in Moorestown after June 2011. Choose natural subjects such as plants, animals, and/or landscapes. Submit 5x7 inch prints (color or black and white).

To be eligible for judging:

Entries must have the following information written on the back of the photo:

1) title of picture; 2) name, address, and email of the photographer; 3) designated category as adult or child (16 years or younger); 4) location of photo; 5) month and year of photo; and 6) an arrow pointing to the top of the image.

Some tips:

- Take early morning shots when lighting is softer
- Keep your back to the sun but also consider flowers and shrubs illuminated from behind
- Look for special effects from fog or after a rain
- Get down to the level of your subject for better perspective.

Digital editing and adjustments are accepted, but not photo montages. Mail entries to STEM, P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057 by June 9, 2012 or bring to STEM's Annual Picnic on June 16. A maximum of four entries per person will be accepted. You do not need to be present to win.

All prints submitted will become the property of STEM for non-commercial use in educational and promotional materials. For more information, please call Bill Creekmore at 856-461-8717. See page 7 for previous contest winners.



Photos: Above, *Rough-stemmed goldenrod (Solidago rugosa)*, colby-sawyer.edu; Right, *Hardy ageratum (Eupatorium coelestinum)*, abnativeplants.com; Far right, *Scarlet Bee Balm (Monarda didyma)*, gurneys.com.

Why We're Gardening with Native Plants

We're planting a new garden this year. The area is full of sun and possibilities! Though we've planted summer bulbs and are working with existing shrubs and herbs, we are going to try something new and "garden with natives."

So, what is meant by "natives"? Natives are plants that grew in this area prior to European settlement that occurred around 1682. Native plants are adapted to an area and to its other living creatures. In comparison, non-native plants are those introduced either purposefully or accidentally. Throughout history, immigrants have brought plant seeds from their homeland and planted them where they settled. Some of those seeds spread into the wild and coexist peacefully with the original native plants. This type of plant is considered a naturalized non-native. By comparison, invasive non-natives are plants that have escaped into the wild, are outcompeting the native plants, and altering ecosystems. The former is OK, but the latter is not.

Native plants have many advantages over non-native plants. As mentioned, native plants have adapted to their local climate and soil conditions. This means that native plants do not need to be watered after becoming established (except during a drought) and do not need fertilizer to thrive—saving time and money for busy gardeners like us.

Since native plants have developed their own defenses against pests and diseases, they also do not need pesticides. This is important since most pesticides kill indiscriminately. They will kill the unwanted pests along with other beneficial insects that share the habitat. When we eliminate the use of pesticides, there are fewer toxins to runoff into our streams and waterways, so we protect our watershed as well.

Native plants and hummingbirds, birds, and butterflies are made for one another because they evolved together. It has been shown that native wildlife prefer native plants. The plants attract insects that attract birds, and it is a wonderful cycle in the garden. This will lead to a beautiful, healthy space to admire and enjoy with minimal work.



In general, native plants have a better survival rate than non-natives.

They are a better value since they have less chance of dying out and needing to be replaced. Keep this in mind when considering the cost of installing new plants. Natives might initially cost a bit more because they are usually not grown in volume, but in the long run might save money.

The savvy gardener is aware of the growing trend to garden with native plants for all their advantages. Just in time for the spring planting season, STEM is having a plant sale at Moorestown Day that will include native plants. We'll be heading over early to get the best selection for our new garden. We hope you'll join us!

—Elizabeth Endres-Hines



Burlington County 2012 Bird Quest—May 5

The Moorestown Merlins were primed and ready to take back their Burlington County Bird Quest crown after finishing second in 2011. Actually there is no crown, and Bird Quest is a very low key competition designed to provide birders of all levels the chance to get outside and enjoy some of the great birding locations we have in Burlington County. Each team's composition should include mostly novice birders—with the focus of the day on introducing beginners to the fun of birding, a hobby that can be enjoyed at any level. This year's team was 100% STEM members—my birding harem included Kathy Carswell, Betsy Schnorr, and Margo Foster. Teams are free to travel wherever they want within the county, and are required to be back at Palmyra Cove for the wrap up by noon.

“Each team's composition should include mostly novice birders—with the focus of the day on introducing beginners to the fun of birding...”

This year we decided to split our time between a couple of sites in Moorestown and then head over to Palmyra Cove Nature Center. We passed on Bear Swamp and Chairville School this year, giving us more time in Palmyra Cove. In past years we were always getting to Palmyra shortly before noon and short changing our time at one of the best birding spots in the state.

The weather started out cool, cloudy, and misty, and pretty much stayed that way for the entire day. We started the day in my backyard where we tallied some of the locals (catbird, House Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker) as well as a couple of nice migrants, including a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in my Pin Oak and a Wood Thrush singing in the woods behind my house.

From there we headed over to Swedes Run. My main reason for heading there was to see if we could find the Savannah Sparrow that I had spotted there the prior week. This is a pretty uncommon bird, and one I was hoping we could tally for the count. We did find the bird and also saw our first Barn Swallows, Common Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers of the day. We also saw a Red-tailed Hawk perched in a

tree, which it turned out was the first of only two Red-tails that we had all day. We failed to see any Cooper or Sharp Shinned hawks, and overall raptor numbers were very low, no doubt a result of the overcast skies.

“We also tallied a Marsh Wren singing in the reeds in the tidal mud flats. We never did see him, but were able to identify him by his rich, burbling song.”

From there we headed over to Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area. We had Orchard Oriole, Eastern Towhee and lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the woods on the path that runs along the eastern perimeter of the park. We also tallied a Marsh Wren singing in the reeds in the tidal mud flats. We never did see him, but were able to identify him by his rich, burbling song. We also picked up a singing Field Sparrow in one of the old peach trees, a remnant of what was once a peach orchard.

At this point we headed back to Palmyra Cove Nature Center, picking up a group of Wild Turkeys near Hartford Road. At Palmyra Cove we saw our first and only Rock Dove, also affectionately known as the pigeon. It would have been pretty sad not to find that bird. In one of the ponds near the entrance of the park, Betsy spied a Blue-winged Teal, a very uncommon duck. We walked through the woods which were pretty quiet, and decided to head up the river trail which runs along the Delaware. At the bridge over the cove we ran into Tom Bailey, a legend among New Jersey birders. Tom helped us identify some of the shore birds that were in the cove, along with some of the birds that were moving along the river including small flocks of Common Mergansers and Dunlins. We also had a pair of Wood Ducks in the cove, undoubtedly one of the prettiest birds you will ever come across.

All told, the Moorestown Merlins tallied 70 species, a number that

put us in first place. Of these, approximately 45 were found in Moorestown. Overall it was a great day, and once again proved that you don't need to travel far to find some great birds. They truly are right in our own backyard—you just have to keep your eyes and ears open. —Mark Pensiero

Photos: Top to bottom, Marsh Wren, National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region. Bird Quest participants, Mark Pensiero, Betsy Schnorr, and Margo Foster with photograph taken by Kathy Carswell. Male Wood Duck and female Wood Duck, Stokes Field Guide to Birds, Eastern Region.



NATURAL AREA CARE

—Caring for the Environment



See new start times for
2012 NAC Projects

UPCOMING CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Volunteers are needed for all events—families & groups are always welcome!

Spring/Summer NAC Projects

The NAC season is off to a fresh start in 2012, and volunteers have been treated to spring's colorful display at each of the work sites. By the time this newsletter goes to print and is uploaded onto the STEM website, NAC volunteers will have completed four of the work party sessions. Volunteering is an invigorating experience—and you learn something new about the site and native flora and fauna each time you venture into the outdoors. General questions regarding STEM's NAC should be directed to Kay Smith at kksmith4@verizon.net or 856-235-2986.

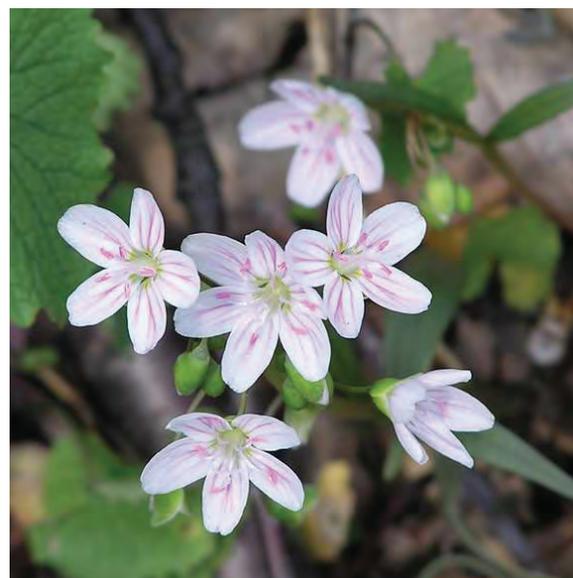
Saturday, June 9, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. @ Esther Yanai Preserve

ESTHER YANAI PRESERVE is located at the eastern end of Moorestown on Garwood Road at Swede Run. The open space was preserved in 2004 and a commemorative banner was created that year by Moorestown artist Cathy Hipple. The banner features willowy birch trees amid a forest floor littered with last year's foliage, and evokes a peaceful serenity. Parking is available at the site. For more information contact site leader Dick Nelson (kcidnelson@comcast.net).

Saturday, July 14, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. @ Pompeston Park Downstream

POMPESTON PARK, downstream of New Albany Road, is the portion of the 83-acre stream corridor park that runs from New Albany Road to Georgian Drive. Volunteers will be clearing the trails of debris, collecting trash, and removing invasive plants to keep this well-used open space in good shape. Parking is on Iron Post Road at New Albany Road (volunteers walk along New Albany Road to the STEM signs). Please contact site leader Deb Lord (dglord@aol.com) for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 11, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. @ Little Woods on the Rancocas & Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve



The Esther Yanai Preserve hosts carpets of spring beauties seasonally. Volunteer with NAC and become familiar with the site. Photo, courtesy of Ed Garvey, sierrapotomac.org.

LITTLE WOODS & SUSAN STEVENS HALBE PRESERVE are contiguous properties that straddle Creek Road in Moorestown. While Little Woods is an earlier preserved site, the Stevens Halbe tract was only recently preserved in 2008. If you volunteer, in addition to using cool litter grabbers, make sure you reserve some time to hike the Little Woods trail that loops north to the Rancocas Creek and back for great views of the creek and tidal wetlands—something you might not do on your own. For more information contact site leaders Susan Buffalino (sbuff4@aol.com) & Lonnie Tait (lonniet47@yahoo.com).

2012 NAC Calendar

Volunteers are always
welcome and appreciated

Saturday, March 10
9:30-11:30 am
Strawbridge Lake Buffer
Route 38

Saturday, April 14
9:30-11:30 am
Wigmore Acres
Westfield Road

Wednesday, April 25
9:30-11:30 am
Waterworks Woods
Kings Highway@Waterworks

Saturday, May 12
9:30-11:30 am
Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road

Tuesday, May 22
9:30-11:30 am
Little Woods on the Rancocas
Creek Road@Laurel Creek Blvd.

Saturday, June 9
8:30-10:30 am
Esther Yanai Preserve
Garwood Road@Swede Run

Saturday, July 14
8:30-10:30 am
Pompeston Park Downstream
of New Albany Road

Saturday, August 11
8:30-10:30 am
Little Woods & Susan
Stevens Halbe Preserve
Creek Road@Laurel Creek Blvd.

Saturday, September 8
9:30-11:30 am
Waterworks Woods
Kings Highway@Waterworks

Tuesday, September 18
9:30-11:30 am
South Valley Woods
Behind South Valley School

Saturday, October 6
9:30-11:30 am
Pompeston Park Downstream
of Fernwood Drive

Saturday, November 10
9:30-11:30 am
Pompeston Park Upstream
of New Albany Road

A Winning NAC Project at Wigmore Acres

Eighteen hearty souls, members of Cub Scout Pack 61 from Our Lady of Good Counsel, were among the environmental stewards working at Wigmore Acres on Saturday, April 14. The day's tasks proved no match for their spirit and energy. Along with regular NAC volunteers, the scouts cleared debris and vegetative growth from an area of Swede Run that bisects the property, cleared the trails, removed invasive multiflora rose, removed a car bumper from the preserve, and weed-



ed the Butterfly Garden. They also attacked Wigmore's biggest demon—volunteers collected enough trash and litter to fill at least six large bags. All that in just two hours! It reminds us that “many hands make light work” of any project.

Site co-leaders Jean Fox and Kathy Huffman, as well as all who use and appreciate this open space, thank Troop Leader Matt Bove, the cub scouts, and the other participants who volunteered that day for their help.

A preview of what's to come: look for a new rain barrel that's due to be

installed in the Butterfly Garden this season. Capturing rain water on-site to use when hydrating the garden will be a big energy and time-saver.

On left, scouts from Cub Scout Pack 61, Wolf Den, take a break after a productive Wigmore clean-up.

Take a Walk in the (spruced up) Waterworks Woods

Thanks to Y.A.L.E. students on their Community Service project led by STEM NAC volunteers, Waterworks Woods is now more pleasant and safer for hiking. Fourteen enthusiastic and energetic students and their teachers lent a hand fixing and cleaning up the wooded trail on April 25, 2012

The students filled in the large trail-side excavation left when a skateboard ramp was removed. Now unsuspecting hikers won't get an unwelcome surprise as they trek through this beautiful woods. Some of the foot bridges now have more secure underpinnings thanks to some long-stored treated lumber from the Boullis' garage. The eroding and usually wet portion of the trail leading to Nixon Drive is now easily traversed. A dumpster-load of Japanese knotweed shoots was also removed from the park.

Site-leader Walt Trommelen assisted by new NAC volunteer, Jim Jones and seasoned volunteers Barb Rich and Margo Foster expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Y.A.L.E. students.

—Kay Smith

Why Attend NAC Events? Reason #3: Exchange Exciting New Recipes With Other Volunteers Culinary Adventures With Japanese Knotweed by David Bicking

Last year I was leading a hike for the New Jersey Outdoor Club, and we came upon a stand of Japanese knotweed. Of course I proceeded to tell everyone how horrible and invasive a plant it is. One old hiker piped up— “Yeah, I've eaten it; it was pretty good.”

Intrigued, I googled it. And indeed there are lots of recipes for knotweed out there. In general, knotweed is supposed to taste and cook like rhubarb, but with an added lemon taste.

I found a cookbook I could download called “If you can't beat it, eat it!” It contained recipes for garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed. Sadly, I can't locate the web site again, and the file doesn't have an author's name.

Knotweed is best when it is 12 to 18 inches tall. Taller, and it develops woody fibers. Above 2 feet, or when it starts to branch, it becomes bitter.

I determined that I would in fact harvest and eat me some knotweed! I put a reminder on my calendar, and waited. But I didn't take the mild winter

into account. By the time I went to pick the knotweed, it was already above 18 inches. Still, I gave it a try and harvested some.

I decided to make a knotweed crumble. You remove the leaves and cut the stalk into chunks, and steam it for ten minutes. Add sugar, then put a mixture of flour, butter and oatmeal on top. Bake the result. The taste was heavenly. To me, it tasted like a cross between key lime and lemon. But true to the warning, it had woody fibers. My cousin said she loved the taste, but she was picking splinters out of her teeth for days! We ended up eating it by taking the chunk of knotweed, and squeezing it between our teeth, getting the tasty filling and leaving the fibers to be discarded. Messy but delicious.

I was told there were smaller knotweed plants in Riverton, so I went on a second foraging trip. Yes, I saw plants in the right height range, but these were different. Instead of thick, mostly hollow stalks, these had twig-like stalks, and sure enough, when steamed, they were just steamed twigs. Not even

tasty steamed twigs. In hindsight, I realize the problem is that these were actually just short branches growing from the pruned main stalks.

But this time, I tried something different. I had to use much-too-old plants, but I made a knotweed tea. True to the warning, it was bitter. I let others sample it unsweetened, and it was universally panned. I later sweetened it, and it was okay. The taste was rhubarb with a twist of lemon.

Next year, I will watch the crop more closely and hope to try the apple and knotweed pie recipe. Where is STEM's Apple Harvest Fest when I have something to submit for the bake-off?

Finally, a word as to why you would want to eat knotweed. In short, it is healthful, full of vitamins and antioxidants. It contains the same antioxidant, resveratrol, found in red grapes. And one source suggests that if you cannot drink red wine, knotweed tea is the next best source. In Japan, where the tea is called Itadori, it is sold as a health drink.

MSOS Update

Moorestown Save Open Space (MSOS) has held the consistent position not to take a stand on the K.I.D.S. project. The families of hundreds of MSOS supporters use these fields and care about them. The MSOS mission is to advocate for using the Open Space Trust Fund to preserve open space. We remain convinced that the overwhelming majority of Moorestown citizens want the Open Trust Fund directed towards preserving open space and not for artificial turf fields. The evidence to support this was the enthusiasm for a ballot referendum, placement of hundreds of MSOS signs on private lawns, and an overwhelming public response at town council meetings and hearings. The citizens of Moorestown want the Open Space trust Fund used for acquiring open space.

—Elizabeth Endres-Hines



Straight from the Horses' Mouth: Friends of Percheron Park Plow Ahead with Plans

For about a century, the 60' x 75' front yard of the house at the intersection of Main and High Streets was occupied by a gas and service station. In 2008, Moorestown Township purchased the property from Puritan Oil Company with the intention of installing a pocket park at the location, giving townspeople 4,500 square feet of open space in their Town Center. Currently, the former Ward's Service Station is undergoing soil remediation, a several-year process discernable by a number of

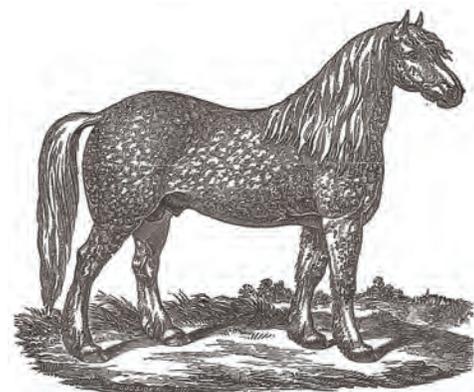
capped wells dotting the now grassy expanse.

Friends of Percheron Park (FOPP) are developing plans for construction of the park, to begin when the soil is deemed clear of contaminants. The park will commemorate the first importations of the Percheron horse from France to the USA in 1839 by Moorestown native/gentleman farmer Edward Harris, Jr. (1799-1863). Harris lived nearby at 12 High Street, the house is now the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, headquarters for the Historical Society of Moorestown. His stallion *Diligence* led in improving the work horses here, establishing the Percheron as the predominate draft horse breed for farm and road use in America—an important position to hold in pre-automotive days.

Costs of the park will be paid primarily from private donations; autumn of 2012 is the projected time for earnest fund-raising to begin. FOPP are obtaining 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt status for the funding campaign.

Isn't it ironic that on the site of a former gas station, erected to serve the motoring public, a park will be built to honor a different kind of horsepower?

—Margo Foster



Image, courtesy of the Historical Society of Moorestown



Photo above, taken on January 9, 2008, is of the former Ward's Service Station (now demolished) on the corner of Main and High Streets in Moorestown. The property is the future site of Percheron Park. Image on far left is a woodcut of Diligence, Harris' Percheron horse.

Cleanup Funding Awarded to Moorestown

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has awarded \$36,378.48 to Moorestown to help fund volunteer litter cleanup efforts, including purchase of equipment related to cleanup and storm drain activities, enforcement of litter laws, and education in schools. The nonprofit Clean Communities Council oversees the program's reporting requirements.

Litter cleanup protects our natural resources, improves our quality of life, and helps build a strong sense of pride in our communities. The grants are funded by a legislated user fee on manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors that produce litter-generating products. I hope that includes bottles, cans, cigarettes, plastic bags, and fast food containers—the litter most commonly seen and picked up in Moorestown.

—Margo Foster (from information in the BCT)

The Liberty Bell to Star in Moorestown's July 4th Parade

Last year, STEM and other volunteers had fun participating in the July 4 parade on Main Street, enjoying the cheers of spectators who voiced their support for our organization. STEM may stretch this year's parade theme of the Liberty Bell to say "Let Freedom Ring"—in support of farmland preservation! We hope you'll be in town on the holiday and able to march with STEM. Call Betsy Schnorr at 856-235-6348 to volunteer; details will come later.



Annual STEM Membership Form

Return to:

P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Is your membership up-to-date?

(Payment for annual memberships is due in March.)

(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.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING STEM STEERING COMMITTEE for 2012-2013

President: Betsy Schnorr

Vice President: Kathy Huffman

Treasurer: Chet Dawson

Secretary: Susan Buffalino

Directors: Claire Rollin Adair, Nanci Clem

Elizabeth Endres-Hines, Margo Foster

Jean Fox, Mark Pensiero, & Walt Trommelen

2012-2013 Nominating Committee:

Nanci Clem (Steering Committee Member)

Claire Rollin Adair (Steering Committee Member)

Barb Rich (Non-Steering Committee Member)

NAC Needs New Chairperson

The health of preserved open spaces is tied to regular maintenance. STEM's Natural Area Care Committee (NAC) is committed to supporting these needs. NAC volunteers save Moorestown taxpayers considerable maintenance dollars annually by providing this valuable service to the community at least a dozen times each year. Kay Smith, current NAC chairperson, will step down from her position at the end of the year. If you are organized and love the outdoors, consider chairing this committee. Please contact Kay or one of the other site leaders whose contact information appears in the NAC article on page four.

Photos below: 2011 Photo Contest winners. Top, by Jen Bulava. Bottom, by Chet Dawson



STEM Annual Meeting Report

This spring's Annual Meeting, held on March 29, marked the 40th anniversary year for STEM. In addition to the customary annual report and election of the Steering Committee slate, Susan Buffalino narrated a short PowerPoint on the highlights of STEM's 40-year history, and the audience was treated to a virtual tour of several of Moorestown's Open Spaces.

The virtual tour video was the idea of STEM Steering Committee Director Elizabeth Endres-Hines. It featured a short commentary videotaped on-site at several of Moorestown's preserved areas; the final version will be shown at the fall SSO festival and posted online as a U-tube video. Special thanks goes to Katie Hines for her filming and formatting expertise.

SAVE THE DATE!
STEM's ANNUAL PICNIC
SATURDAY, JUNE 16 at 4 p.m.
POT LUCK MENU
LOCATION: SCHNORR RESIDENCE
435 EAST MAIN STREET

40th ANNIVERSARY
1972-2012



SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT
OF MOORESTOWN

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**VISIT STEM'S BOOTH FOR THE
2012 ANNUAL PLANT SALE
ON MOORESTOWN DAY**
Saturday, June 2, 9 am to 3 pm
on Main Street in Moorestown

AREA EVENTS OF INTEREST

Saturday, May 19, 2012- Burlington County Community Agricultural Center, 8:30am-1pm, 500 Centerton Rd., Moorestown (runs till October 6, 2012)

Tuesday, May 29, 2012- Exploring the Ecology of the Pines, 7pm, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton, 609-859-8860 x 14 or register online

Saturday, June 2, 2012- National Trails Day. Visit a preserved area, take a hike, view wildlife, and enjoy the great outdoors.

Wednesday, June 6, 2012- Nature Toddlers, 10-11am & 1:30-2:30pm, NJA Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Rd., Westampton, 609-261-2495.

Sunday, June 17, 2012- Peeking into Pond Life, 1:30-3:30pm Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Rd., Westampton, 609-261-2495,

Saturday, June 23, 2012- Whitesbog Blueberry Festival, 10 am-4pm, Whitesbog Preservation Trust, call 609-893-1765

Sunday, June 24, 2012- Burlington County Earth Fair, 10am-4pm, Smithville Park, for details visit: www.co.burlington.nj.us

Saturday, July 21, 2012- Colonial Nesting Birds, 1-3pm, Pete Bacinski, "All Things Birds," NJAS, call 609-261-2495

Sunday, August 26, 2012- A Day on the Water, 10am-5pm, Smithville Park, Call 609-265-5858 to register.

STEM Steering Committee Members for 2012-2013

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 & barbrich37ec@gmail.com