



Clearwater of NJ Newsletter

March 2009

Volume 2, Number 3

Clearwater of New Jersey
P.O. Box 303
Red Bank, New Jersey
07701

Clearwater Hotline:
732-872-9644
e-mail:

info@mcclearwater.org

www.mcclearwater.org

www.myspace.com/njclearwaterfestival

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Sunday, March 1
Monthly Membership Meeting
Eatontown Community Center, 72 Broad St. 2pm

Wednesday, March 18
Festival Committee

Sunday, March 22
Environmental Cmte
Cobblestone Restaurant
Eatontown

Monday, March 30
BOD Meeting,
Eatontown Library , 7pm

For more info on CoNJ meetings go to:

www.mcclearwater.org/calendar.php

Board of Directors
President: Chrissie Goedkoop
Vice President: Ed Dlugosz
Treasurer: Tim Johnson
Secretary: Joellen Lundy
Ben Forest
Jim Franchi
Andrea Spinelli
Al Schnitzer
Marylin Johnson
George Moffatt
Lynn Humphrey

Fort Monmouth Landfill Stabilization Victory for CoNJ

By Ed Dlugosz

Based on over two years of hard and often criticized work on our part on the Fort Monmouth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and FMERPA EAC, Clearwater of New Jersey (formerly MCFC) has won a great victory in the fight to make Fort Monmouth (FM) cleaner environmentally. Fort Monmouth has finally agreed to stabilize the stream banks of 5 landfills in anticipation of "capping" all 9 existing landfills at the military base.

"Our insistence on independently determining costs for more complete sediment testing, stabilizing the stream banks with riprap, and landfill capping came after a series of requested contaminated site visits starting in early 2007, I feel that the increased NJDEP invigoration and the Fort's change of heart are the direct result of our efforts. Previous to that, the Fort denied that they needed the additional stabilization and capping", according to CoNJ Vice President Ed Dlugosz, who is also Chairman of the Eatontown Environmental Commission (EEC) and had served as Community Co-chairman of the FM RAB.

These landfills have polluted the sub-watersheds of the Shrewsbury River for over 60 years. The landfills contain many chemical and biological contaminants that continue to exceed the NJDEP industrial standards for pollutants, including heavy metals lead, mercury, cadmium, the solvent VOCs TCE, PCE, oil derivatives, benzenes, PAH, PCB, the poisons arsenic and cyanide, among others. While the Fort has done much to bring the contamination under control, the extensive stabilization and capping were among the missing elements.

Although it was announced at the recent RAB Open House, this long-awaited, verifiable-action news came through a relatively low-key source, the EEC received a notice that stabilization permits and plans from the Fort were available for review. The comments are due to the NJDEP on several construction and wetlands permits that were required for reinforcement of the stream banks with engineered riprap on over 1¼ miles along the Wampum and Husky Brooks, and Lefetra and Parker Creeks to prevent future erosion of the landfills. As Ingrid Heldt noted in last month's article, funding is still problematic.

I've been reviewing both the design and the design's consistency with local, state, and Federal regulations for the protection of the environment and habitat. In an answer to one of the permits' consistency questions, I was heartened by the Fort's admission to what we've been saying all along, and I quote, "placement of the riprap...providing long-term stability for these landfills in preventing their waste deposits from becoming exposed which

Article Deadline for the
April issue of
MC Clearwater
Newsletter is
Monday, March 23

E-mail your articles to
info@mcclearwater.org
By the deadline stated
above, please use the
phrase "MC Clearwater
article" in the subject of
your e-mail

CoNJ Membership Info:
[www.mcclearwater.org/do
cs/membership-form.htm](http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm)

If any of the links
do not work, cut and
paste the full URL into
the address box.

For more, up-to-the-
minute CoNJ news
and archives go to:
[http://www.mcclear
water.org/news.php](http://www.mcclearwater.org/news.php)

If you need to pay
your membership
dues, please go to the
Clearwater website:
[www.mcclearwater.or
g/docs/membership-
form.htm](http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm)

would **ADVERSELY IMPACT NOT ONLY THE STREAMS ON [FM] BASE, BUT ALSO DOWNSTREAM.**" Previous soft solutions, "biologs had previously been attempted, but **TOTALLY FAILED** shortly after installation" in the late '90s.

While I've not completed the review and have informed the borough EEC and engineer, I am pleased by the design of the stabilization but concerned with the Fort's less than robust capping plans. I'd like to see excavation of the sources of pollution to the extent possible and thicker, more impermeable capping materials to reduce leaching.

The costs have been unavailable due to competitive bidding reasons, but they will be substantial and bolster my contention—confirmed by the GAO—that the original costs for remediation of the Fort's environmental woes were vastly underestimated. As always, there are more environmental issues to be corrected, but this is a great first step and victory for us.

Climate Change (Global Warming) Deniers Never Quit

By Jack Charlton, Physicist (retired)

On Sunday, February 15, the Asbury Park Press carried an Op Ed by George Will, which was basically a denial of global warming. We are accustomed to reading items from individuals with an ideological agenda who cherry pick their references to present only that which supports their beliefs. But this Op Ed is so replete with factual errors that it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that they are not simply errors but deliberate lies.

For example, Mr. Will stated that "According to the University of Illinois' Arctic Climate Research Center, global sea ice levels now equal those of 1979". Within hours of Will's publication the Arctic Climate Research Center posted a reply saying, "We do not know where George Will is getting his information", but between February 1979 and February 2009 global sea ice has shrunk by 1.34 million square kilometers (over half a million square miles, or approximately the area of Texas, California, and Oklahoma combined). Mr. Will's office was contacted regarding this discrepancy, but he has not responded.

Considerable space in the Op Ed was devoted to the issue of predictions made during the 70's of future global cooling. Will argues that if scientists were wrong then, why should we believe them now? He provided brief quotes from eight different publications all suggesting that there was general scientific agreement that we could be heading for another ice age. The problem is that there never was such scientific agreement.

By the 70's it was well established that human-generated airborne particulates blocked the sun's rays contributing to cooling, while, simultaneously, carbon dioxide from the combustion of fossil fuel trapped the sun's heat causing global warming. No one really knew which would dominate. A few scientists did predict the former, and speculate on the possibility of a new ice age. As is not unusual, the popular press was quick to pick up and sensationalize such predictions, leading, for example, to a cover story in Newsweek on April 28, 1975.

Was cooling truly a dominant scientific opinion at the time as quoted in many of the referenced popular-press articles? The publication *New Scientist* surveyed relevant scientific literature between 1965 and 1979.

They found 44 scientific papers predicted warming, 20 were neutral and just 7 predicted cooling. The situation is better represented by the National Academy of Sciences. Its report for 1975 read, “we do not have a good quantitative understanding of our climate machine and what determines its course. Without the fundamental understanding, it does not seem possible to predict climate.” By contrast, in 2008 the NAS issued a report finding that “the scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to begin taking steps to prepare for climate change and to slow it. Human actions over the next few decades will have a major influence on the magnitude and rate of future warming.” Mr. Will did not see fit to include any such information. In addition, the one publication on his list, which has strong credentials as a voice for science, was seriously misquoted.

In another major misrepresentation, Will wrote, “According to the World Meteorological Organization, there has been no recorded global warming for more than a decade.” This information apparently comes from a year-old (and since corrected) BBC story. It derives from a comparison of current world temperatures with the global temperatures in 1998, a particularly hot year. (This is about as logical as looking at Monmouth County’s temperature for Sunday, February 8 (60 degrees) and Friday, February 20 (34 degrees) and predicting that spring is not going to come this year because the closer we get to the Vernal Equinox the colder it is.) Will did not inform his readers that the World Meteorological Organization has emphatically confirmed its view that global warming is continuing, and that gauging climate change by looking at only one year is essentially useless.

Finally, Will has dragged out an old canard regard climate change. He wrote, “An unstated premise of eco-pessimism is that environmental conditions are, or recently were, optimal” and “These optimal conditions can and must be preserved”. This totally misses the point of much of the climate change concern. Most scientists would agree that either a warmer or cooler earth would probably host an abundance of life (though not necessarily human life). But all flora and fauna on earth (including humans) are adapted to conditions as they have existed with little change for over 10,000 years. Any relatively abrupt change will inevitably introduce extreme trauma and hardship for earth’s inhabitants. To give a specific example, it is generally conceded that rising sea levels associated with global warming may displace many farmers in low-lying countries such as Bangladesh. On the other hand, increased warming may open to agriculture land in the sub-arctic not now farmable. It is possible that these losses and gains may balance each other. But does anyone really believe that hordes of displaced Bangladeshis could flow seamlessly into northern Canada to continue their agricultural life?

People tend to believe what they want to believe. No one really wants to believe that earth is in peril and that we must make changes in the way we do a number of things. Hence one error-filled and misleading article by a respected writer such as George Will can do tremendous damage to our ability to come together and confront a serious and rapidly growing problem. Perhaps more damage than 100 technically sound and well-documented scientific papers can overcome.

Latest Guest Speaker at February's General Membership Meeting

By Ed Dlugosz

Guest Speaker Jennifer DiLorenzo, Monmouth University Urban Coastal Institute's (UCI) Sustainable Coastal Communities Liaison made a presentation on "Sustainable/Resilient Coastal Communities" to the members of Clearwater of NJ at the February 1, 2009 Membership Meeting. Ms. DiLorenzo was the latest in the series of guest speakers at our monthly meetings held at the Eatontown Community Center, 72 Broad St., Eatontown on the first Sunday of every month.

Ms DiLorenzo related that Monmouth's UCI mission is to serve the public interest as forum for research, education, and collaboration that fosters the application of the best available science and policy to support healthy and productive coastal ecosystems and a sustainable and economically vibrant future for coastal communities. UCI's core programs are: Coastal Law And Policy; Coastal Watershed Management; Coastal Communities And Economics; and Regional Ecosystem Management. UCI's Sustainable/Resilient Communities Projects seek to:

- Promote ecosystem-based management for coastal communities to maintain natural resources for citizens to enjoy
- Promote sound planning initiatives to preserve natural resources, reduce environmental degradation and improve water quality
- Promote projects to increase resiliency—reduce flooding and impacts from coastal storms, erosion, and sea level rise

One of these projects that is ongoing is the modeling of coastal sustainable/resilient community under funding from NOAA. To gather data for this effort, UCI is performing remote water quality monitoring from 8 stations in key coastal locations throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties. For more info, please click: www.monmouth.edu/urban_coast_institute

Environmental Sail Program Set to Grow

By Ed Dlugosz

ESP is set to grow this Spring and Summer with two exciting partnerships. The first, Little Silver Cub Scout Pack 3 will join ESP for a series of environmental experiences. Pack 3 and the ESP team have made plans to provide hands-on demonstration of garvey maintenance during spring fit-out. Once the Hyler is launched, we will be working with the Cub leaders to help them earn their World Conservation Award by a series of on-water and on-shore experiences including nature awareness sails, environmental lessons, and a myriad of other activities, including learning the fundamentals of sailing.

The second, expand our partnership with the Navesink Maritime Heritage Association's River Rats program—where youth groups build canoes over a weekend then participate in various activities. In the past ESP has provided the environmental education and acted as the mother ship to a flotilla of canoes. This summer, a week-long program will teach the youth team-building skills of rowing and sailing on the Hyler itself. We will increase the scope of River Rats by sailing and rowing down the Navesink to Hartshorne Woods in a series of day-long increments packed with fun-filled environmental lessons.

Next General Membership Meeting, Sunday March 1, 2 PM
Guest Speaker: Jane Nogaki NJEF Pesticide Program Coordinator;
Eatontown Center 72 Broad St., Eatontown.

Garvey Work Party Notice: Saturday, March 21st @ 11:00 AM.
The ESP Committee will then meet every Saturday at 11:00 AM until we are ready to launch. We will be replacing a plank near the rear of the boat. The regular spring fit out of sanding, scraping, painting, linseeding and varnishing will be done. Come out and learn what it takes to maintain a classic New Jersey Wooden sailboat. Email Jim Franchi for directions at jrfranchi@comcast.net

Oyster Creek Citizen's Protest
Saturday, March 28 @ 12 PM--Huddy Park, Main & Water Streets, Toms River. Sponsored By Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch and their FRIENDS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PLEASE CALL: Joanne Faber 732-244-2036;
Grace Costanzo: 732-818-0402; Edith Gbur: 732-240-5107

Water Testing Training
AmeriCorp Liaison Andrea Spahn will provide Freshwater Testing Training. Ms. Spahn will show us how monitoring macroinvertebrates, such as certain stream insects and crustaceans, will reveal the relative health and quality of the water. It's been established that certain macroinvertebrates have different levels of tolerance for different water qualities. The training will be an indoor/outdoor, hands-on event Sunday, April 5 starting at 12 noon at Eatontown Community Center, Broad St., Eatontown. Dress appropriately for 1pm outdoor field session at Bliss Arboretum, Wyckoff Road, Eatontown. We will hold this event in conjunction with the April Monthly General Membership Meeting.

Quote of the Month:
"Tell me, I may forget;
show me, then I may remember;
but involve me, and I'll understand."
--A Chinese proverb



HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY!!
May you live as long as you want, And never want as long as you live.
--Irish blessing

PLEASE NOTE:

If you would like to be removed from the Clearwater of NJ Newsletter List

Please e-mail Lynn (newsletter@mcclearwater.org)

With the message: "Remove from MC Clearwater Newsletter List" in the subject box

Newsletter Information
Editorial Committee:
Ed Dlugosz, Lynn
Humphrey, Jack Charlton,
Al Schnitzer