



# NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

December 2011

Volume 4, Number 12

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

Clearwater  
Hotline:  
(732) 784-8547  
e-mail:

[info@mcclearwater.org](mailto:info@mcclearwater.org)

Website:  
[www.mcclearwater.org](http://www.mcclearwater.org)

Upcoming NJFC  
Events

Sunday,  
December 11  
General Meeting,  
2PM  
Eatontown  
Community Ctr  
72 Broad Street,  
Eatontown

Sunday,  
December 18,  
8:30AM  
Environmental  
Cmte Mtg.,  
Cobblestone  
Restaurant,  
Eatontown

Circle of Song  
Sing-Along  
December 15  
6:30pm,  
Our Exciting  
New Location:  
Turnstile Coffee  
Bar  
1607 Highway 71,  
Belmar, NJ  
07719  
732- 894-9012

## Whale Pond Brook Watershed Cleanup December 10, 2011:

**Who?:** Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association in cooperation with the Monmouth U. and sponsored by NJ Friends of Clearwater

**What?:** We will clean debris and invasive plants from both the Ross Island and the Takanassee Lake shoreline.

**When?:** December 10, 9:30am Registration until 12:30pm

**Where?:** Lakeside edge of Red Oakes Drive horseshoe, Elberon, Long Branch 07740.

**Why?:** To continue the restoration one of the most beautiful assets on Whale Pond Brook Watershed. The Ross Island historic stone house will be a WPBWA's showcase and symbol of our commitment to the Takanassee Lake restoration.

**How:** Hard work in a beautiful, seldom seen setting. John boats and hipboots. Gloves & bags provided; wear sturdy shoes/pants and bring clippers hand saws, pruners, loppers, eye protection, etc.

**Contact:** Faith Teitelbaum: [faithteitel@gmail.com](mailto:faithteitel@gmail.com); Ed Dlugosz: [info@mcclearwater.org](mailto:info@mcclearwater.org)



## Special December General Membership Meeting, Election, and Party! Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2 pm in the Eatontown Community Center

As another great and successful year ends, we at NJ Friends of Clearwater want to celebrate its conclusion and the start of a new year with a special December General Membership Party and Board of Directors Election Meeting. The ECC is located at 72 Broad Street, Eatontown, NJ. Great time to renew or become a member! Bring a dish to share if you like. Bring your guitar, your drum, your voice!!!!

**IT'S ALSO ELECTION DAY:** Please vote for up to 6 nominees (this would include the names placed in nomination by the Board of Directors AND any possible write-in candidates). VOTE CAREFULLY – A ballot with MORE than the maximum 6 will be disqualified. ALSO, if you decide to change a vote, make sure your change(s) very clear or the vote may incorrectly count your choices.

Jim Franchi

Ingrid Heldt

\_\_\_\_\_

Andrea Spinelli

George Moffatt

\_\_\_\_\_

The normal board rotation is one half one year and one half (+1) the next. One ballot per member and as many separate ballots constituting the family unit. To be counted, ballots must be at the post office by Saturday, December 10, 2011.

REMEMBER, YOU MUST BE A PAID-UP MEMBER TO VOTE. YOU CAN MAIL IN YOUR DUES OR BRING THEM TO THE MEETING. DUES are:

Individual \$25; Family \$35; Student/Senior \$10.

NJFC Membership Forms and Info: [www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm](http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm)

**REMEMBER: OUR REGULAR CLEARWATER MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD JOINTLY WITH SIERRA CLUB, 6PM, ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE STUDENT LIFE CENTER, PARKING LOT #7, BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LINCROFT, NJ. JANUARY 2012 SPEAKER: JEFF TITTEL**

For more info  
on NJFC  
meetings go to:  
[http://www.mcdclearwater.org/calendardar\\_New/calendar.php](http://www.mcdclearwater.org/calendardar_New/calendar.php)

**ANNUAL  
MEMBERS  
HIP DUES  
RENEWAL  
NOW  
DUE!**

NJFC  
Membership  
Info:

[www.mcdclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm](http://www.mcdclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm)

Article  
Deadline for  
the January  
2012 issue of  
NJFC  
Newsletter is  
December 21

Email your  
articles to  
[newsletter@mcdclearwater.org](mailto:newsletter@mcdclearwater.org)

By the  
deadline stated  
above, please  
use the phrase  
"MC  
Clearwater  
article" in the  
subject of your  
e-mail

Newsletter  
Information  
Editor:  
Ed Dlugosz

## **Eatontown Looks For Source Of Wampum Lake Pollution: Studies reveal heavy metal contamination**

By Nicole Antonucci, Atlanticville Staff Writer

**November 23, 2011:** Despite the U.S. Army's claims that it is not responsible for the pollution of Wampum Lake, the Eatontown Borough Council is supporting an analysis by Ed Dlugosz, of the Environmental Commission, that claims otherwise. During the Nov. 9 workshop meeting, members of the council decided to draft a resolution addressing the issue of pollution at Wampum Lake to forward to the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

"I don't think it's inappropriate to let it be known that Eatontown wants to protect its interests and is looking into this," Anthony Talerico Jr., council president, said. Mayor Gerald Tarantolo explained that it needs to be proven beyond a doubt that Fort Monmouth is the source of the pollution. "If you can identify that the federal government is the culprit in the contamination of Wampum Lake, then federal law says that the federal government is obligated to clean the contamination." Tarantolo said. "It is our responsibility to determine whether or not it was Fort Monmouth's operation that contributed to the contamination."

According to Lawrence Hajna, a spokesman for the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Army did a study of potential impacts of facilities on streams in the area. The study is known as a Baseline Ecological Evaluation Report (BEE). "They concluded that their operations did not impact the sediments of those streams," Hajna said. "These studies did not look at Wampum Lake." Hajna said that the local environmental commission is looking into a grant to evaluate the lake sediments.

According to a Sept. 23 letter from Matthew Turner, of the DEP's Bureau of Case Management, to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC), the DEP raises nine concerns with several sections of the report; one section regards Wampum Brook and other streams. "The report should provide an analysis and justification for the background samples collected along Mill Creek since this creek is located downstream from two surface water bodies on the Charles Woods Area [of Fort Monmouth] identified as Parkers Creek and Wampum Brook," Turner said in the letter. Turner also concludes that the DEP cannot concur with the conclusion that "additional ecological assessments at [Fort Monmouth] are not warranted or recommended" until the issues are addressed.

The Borough Council decided to take action after listening to a presentation by Dlugosz, environmental commission chairman, in which he outlined studies conducted of Wampum Lake and how Fort Monmouth could be the source of pollution of the lake. He told the council that in 1990 the Monmouth County Health Department did a study of 20 lakes in Monmouth County, testing for the presence of 13 heavy metals. "Wampum Lake not only tested positive for all the contaminants, 10 of the 13 [metals] exceeded the severe effects levels. That is the harshest level, where there are the severest repercussions of ingesting, breathing, etc.," Dlugosz said.

Donald Dorfman, of Monmouth University, did a second study, which was based on the work done by the county, he said. According to that study, not only were the same metals present but fish in the lake were being affected. "Each of the fish ingested different materials, different heavy metals, and they had different reactions to them," Dlugosz said.

His presentation featured a chart with each of the heavy metals listed, including arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc along with the potential health repercussions. "Every one of these contaminants listed are part of the everyday sediments on Fort Monmouth," Dlugosz said.

Various buildings on Fort Monmouth produced several of the heavy metals identified, he said. Fort Monmouth was the communications electronics capital of the Army. They are known far and wide for their radar and every component, every computer, every system they have had batteries," Dlugosz said.

Underground water flow maps, he said, showed water flowing from streams near Fort Monmouth directly into Wampum Lake. "Just like on the surface, it flows from high point to

low, and the same things happen underground," Dlugosz said. The stream that flows into Wampum Lake is only a few hundred feet from several of the buildings on the fort, which deal with the same metals, he said.

After presenting his findings, Dlugosz refuted the explanations offered by Army officials. "One of the things the Army has done is make excuses that they aren't the bad guy, that somebody else did it, and one of the things they always bring up is something called Metallurgical Industries," Dlugosz said. However, research has shown that the only contaminant from the Metallurgical building, located on Pinebrook Road off the fort grounds, was chromium, he said. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) toxic release inventory report of Metallurgical Industries found negative results for contributing to pollution of Wampum Lake, he said.

"We have looked at our tax records, looked at other possible organizations [that could have contributed to the pollution], all came out negative," Dlugosz said. The Army has been very hesitant to conduct a full-stream sediment test, he said. "If we get the funding, I want to revisit past test sites, go downstream where there should be a buildup of sediment and then go upstream," he said.

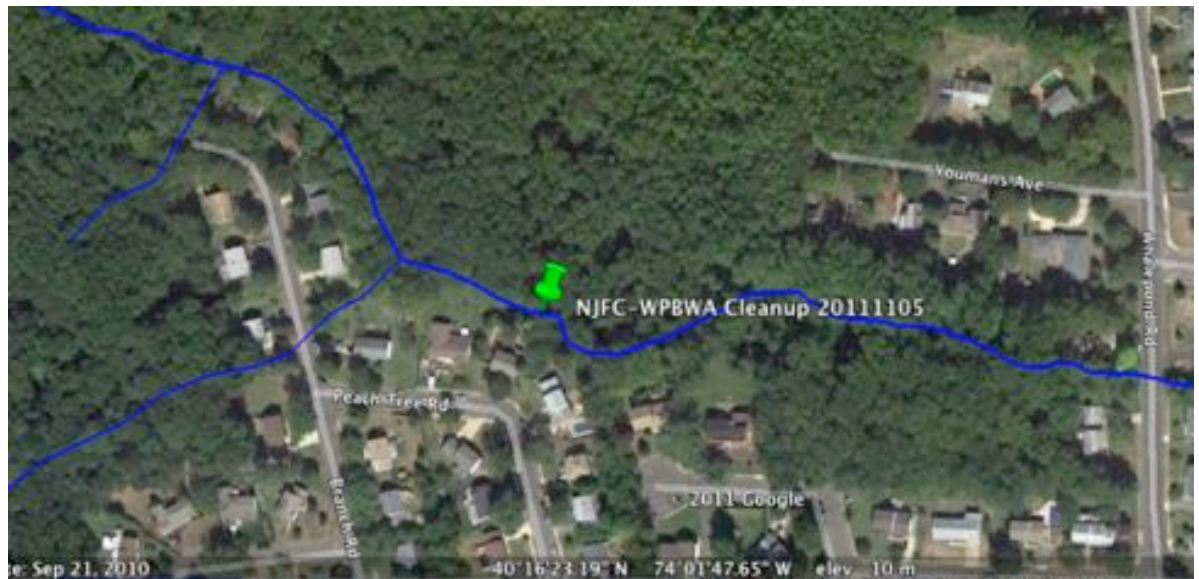
Talerico commented on the Army's involvement. "FMERA likes to say everything is warm and fuzzy when talking about the environment side of this. It's not a glamorous subject to talk about, I will admit. It's more fun to talk about bringing in business and development and making it a thriving economy for the area, but all that is going to be stymied if we can't do it right from the beginning," Talerico said.

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Dlugosz obtained a portion of his long-awaited OPRA request on Metallurgical Industries after publication of his presentation and this article. Although more evidence of contamination was available, a NJDEP representative who assisted obtaining the material said that the "review of the file didn't reveal any indication that the Lake was impacted from the Metallurgical site."

### **Another Successful Whale Pond Brook Watershed Cleanup**

By Ed Dlugosz

Continuing with our "Protect Our Watersheds" theme, NJ Friends of Clearwater sponsored several cleanups of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed in November and early December 2011 with other members of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association (WPBWA). Our first cleanup on November 5<sup>th</sup> was another resounding success. It was held in a portion of Whale Pond Brook near the intersection Branch and Peach Tree Roads, Ocean Township.



Members of the neighborhood had long been subjected to constant flooding of neighborhood caused by overdevelopment and poor floodplain planning and execution. Hurricanes Irene and Lee struck NJ with direct and unaccustomed devastation in late August and early September. The whole neighborhood was underwater for weeks. This

flooding, the worst in memory, had cut across a sharp bend in the brook at our location and threatened carve a new permanent path through the properties.



By this time, only two-thirds into year, 2011 held claim to being the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest year on record, which exacerbated an already bad situation. Neighbors hearing of our yearlong string of successes contacted WPBWA. Over the course of several meetings we devised a plan with the help of our watershed ambassador and the Mosquito Commission. Major debris and downed branches caught in web of vines offered no easy solution. We made the bend in the Brook our target.

WPBWA members (pictured above right to left) Faith Teitelbaum, Jeff King, Laura Bagwell, Laurel VonGerichten, and Ed Dlugosz; Tom Thorsen (Watershed Ambassador), and friend Chris worked for over 3.5 hours, wearing chest waders, mostly “waist deep in the small muddy” freeing the Whale Pond by cutting overarching domes of vine before we could remove the log and branch dams, plastics, car doors and mufflers, and other manmade garbage.

A week later we returned to Ross Island in the Takanassee in the Elberon section of Long Branch. We are planning to return there on December 10 at 9:30am. See notice above.



### **NJ Friends Of Clearwater Circle Of Song**

Please join us for our Monthly Sing-Along At Our Beautiful New Location In Belmar:  
Turnstile Coffee Bar  
1607 Highway 71, Belmar, NJ 07719

We encourage songs about the environment and sing-along songs, but you can do or request others. The suggested donation of \$3-\$7 is still split between NJ Friends of Clearwater and Pastor Sonny's work on behalf of the homeless and the hungry in Asbury Park. Our Featured Leader-Performer for December 15 will be Lorraine Stone  
Please check [www.ingridmusic.com](http://www.ingridmusic.com) under **Circle of Song** or [www.mcclearwater.org](http://www.mcclearwater.org) under **Links/Circle of Song** for any potential changes to planned events or call 732-869-9276.