



NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

January-February 2012

Volume 5, Number 1

New Jersey Friends of
Clearwater
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Upcoming NJFC
Events

Monday, Feb. 27, Joint
NJFC-Sierra Club
General Meeting, 6PM
Brookdale Community
College
Rt 520, Lincroft

Sunday, Feb. 19,
8:30AM
Enviro Cmte Mtg
Cobblestone Restaurant,
Eatontown

Circle of Song Sing-
Along
February 16, 6:30pm,
**Our Exciting
New Location:**
Tomatillo Coffee Bar
1607 Highway 71,
Belmar, NJ 07719
732- 894-9012

Article Deadline for
the March 2012 issue
of NJFC Newsletter is
March 15

Email your articles to
newsletter@mcclearwater.org

Long-Time NJ Friends of Clearwater Member Pat McGrath Passes

By Jack Charlton

Pat McGrath, long-time member and board member of New Jersey Friends of Clearwater, died Sunday, February 12, 2012 after a short illness with pneumonia.

Pat was involved with virtually all of the early successes of Clearwater such as the collection of pollution sample at IFF in Union Beach which ultimately led to a major fine against the company and clean-up of the site. He could be counted on for support on a wide range of environmental issues and was a driving spirit with the boat committee.

In addition to his work with Clearwater, Pat devoted eight summers hosting and mentoring inner city kids at a house on Sandy Hook thereby providing a unique opportunity for some of the most needy.

Board member Jim Franchi stated, "He has been a major part of the group for over 35 years. A good friend to many of us."

Ed and Linda Dlugosz recalled, "Our earliest memory of Pat was that he befriended us as rookies when we didn't know anyone at our first MCFC Clearwater Festival. We were dying from the heat while working hard as the only members of recycling crew. He told us to slow down and enjoy ourselves, it would all get done. Our last Clearwater memory was his rousing call for "pass the hat" for donations at the last Festival."

"Pat was so very active with Clearwater and it's festivals, giving it always 100%", mused Bob Mula. "If help was needed for set up or break down, Pat was always there to lend a helping hand. Pat was someone that was fun to just sit and have a beer with. It was very sad to hear of his passing."

Pat was a true friend and none who knew him will forget his big heart and magnanimous spirit.

The viewing will be this Thursday, February 16, 2012 and the funeral the following day in Englewood, NJ.

Joint Clearwater-Sierra Club Monthly Meeting 6pm, February 27 at Brookdale Community College Lincroft SLC

Ultimate Recycler Joins Whale Pond Brook Watershed Discovery Hike

By Ed Dlugosz

NJ Friends of Clearwater, sponsor of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association monthly cleanups, introduced Mr. Ron Wollner, President of Computer Data Storage (CDS) to the Watershed team on February 11th. Ed Dlugosz, in addition to Clearwater leadership, is the Chairman of Eatontown's Green Team. Mr. Wollner, a member of the Green Team, was kind enough to offer his parking lot as a kickoff spot for the Hike.

He also offered us a tour of his facility, which left everyone in awe. To start with, Ron is a solar power pioneer in Eatontown and a true believer in alternative energy, conservation, and massive reuse of equipment and materials. His company CDS is a leader. His use of massive arrays of solar cover the roofs of his buildings and has created one of the largest carport solar arrays in the county, if not the state.

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

For more info on NJFC meetings go to:

http://www.mcclearwater.org/calendar_NewsCalendar.php

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
DUES
RENEWAL
NOW DUE!**

NJFC Membership
Info:

www.mcclearwater.org/files/membership-form.htm

Newsletter Information

Editor:

Ed Dlugosz



He produces more than 60% of his power for his huge data storage farm that supports cloud computing and as backup for other companies' data centers. He started his entrepreneurial business buying and selling used computers. His business has grown exponentially

and bids/buys out huge data centers and structures like Prudential and AT&T from around the country, refurbishes, and resells not only whole servers but also the individual components, some of which are rare. He supplies them all over the world through outlets like eBay. He has built his buildings, his carports, and interior space from repurposed structural steel and other products. Even his beautiful offices have doorways, tables, and tiled floors and walls that were once gracing other facilities.



After the tour of the facility--Ray Pogwist, Ed Dlugosz, Ron Wollner, Faith Teitelbaum, Suzan Cole, and Bob Sandberg fought the briars and brambles to get to the edge of Cranberry Brook and the Whale Pond Preserve behind the CDS building. The brambles and terrain proved daunting so only a few more forays to the bank of Cranberry were made without a machete. Afterwards Ray and Ed hiked down to the last business before crossing under Rt. 18. What we found disturbed us. We found that some of the businesses were dumping illegally to include spilled ceramics-materials, crumbling brickwork and tiles, and other debris. We found other businesses were good citizens like Ron who promised to join us in our waders and machetes as we mimicked Bogart in African Queen on the Cranberry.

NOAA Marine Fisheries Expert Will Discuss Health of Major NJ Fisheries at Joint Clearwater-Sierra Club Meeting on Feb. 27

Clyde Mackenzie, a senior researcher at the National Marine Fisheries Laboratory (NMFS/NOAA) at Sandy Hook, will discuss the health of the world's major marine fisheries, with emphasis on New Jersey marine fisheries, at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft. The meeting, open to the public, will include the college's students and the members of the N.J. Friends of Clearwater and the Jersey Shore (Monmouth) Group of the Sierra Club.

Almost all of the world's major fisheries are suffering from over-fishing and pollution, and the populations of many fish species are in danger of collapsing. Both the environmental and economic consequences are staggering, since UN statistics indicate there are 38 million commercial fishermen and fish farmers, while overall, the fisheries and aquaculture industries employ directly and indirectly more than 500 million people.

Mr. Mackenzie has specialized in the biology and ecology of mollusks in the eastern

United States and Canada, as well as studying fish populations worldwide. He has made at least 12 survey trips to Latin America to observe and document its mollusk populations, as well as carrying on research in the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. He is the author of many scientific papers.

Mr. Mackenzie's presentation is hosted by the BCC Science Field Station at Sandy Hook to encourage BCC students to be involved in statewide and national debates on the importance of strong environmental regulations. At the Lincroft meeting, a cash buffet begins at 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Mackenzie's presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

The NMFS lab, named after the late Congressman James J. Howard, has been studying fish and shellfish in the New Jersey and New York estuaries since 1961.

To get to the meeting at Brookdale, take Parkway Exit 109 to Route 520 West (Newman Springs Road, which becomes E. Main Street at the Lincroft campus). Take the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting will be in the Twin Lights Rooms 1 and 2. Use parking lot 7. As you walk eastward towards the building complex, Warner will be on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Editors Note: Immediately following the Guest Speaker Q&A (approx. 7:45pm), NJFC will hold its breakout membership meeting at a location at BCC to be announced (TBA). All welcome!

NJ Friends Of Clearwater Circle Of Song @ Turnstile Coffee Bar, Belmar

Please join us for our Monthly Sing-Along At Our Beautiful New Location In Belmar: Turnstile Coffee Bar, 1607 Highway 71, Belmar, NJ 07719. Our Featured Leader-Performer for February 16 will be **Kathy Moser**. 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.

Please check www.ingridmusic.com under **Circle of Song** or www.mcclearwater.org under **Links/Circle of Song** for any potential changes to planned events or call 732-869-9276.

Eatontown's & NJFC's Wampum Lake Campaign Achieving Critical Mass

by Ed Dlugosz

Wampum Lake's contamination is deadly serious, literally. Polluted by the Army with at least 13 contaminants known as heavy metals, the health impacts range from a range of cancers to affecting almost all human and animal organ systems including cardiovascular, respiratory, dermal, gastrointestinal, hepatic, neurological, immunological, developmental, renal, reproductive, hematological, musculoskeletal, and ocular¹ At the Army property test point closest to the Lake, 21 heavy metals were detected as well as 8 SVOCs, PCBs, and 2 VOCs so there's probably more damaging toxins such as these also in the Wampum Lake.

The Army has never taken responsibility for these toxins in the 22 years since the first tests were made. It's only in the past 6 years, since the revelation by the Fort Monmouth RAB of its extensive contamination, that we've been able to see the unequivocal correlation clearly. With the most recent revelations we've gained a critical mass of evidence that has convinced the local governments of Eatontown and Oceanport, and the Tinton Falls' EC to support Eatontown's and NJFC's call for independent testing and analysis with strongly worded resolutions and the authority to partner and seek grants to pay for the independent testing.

The latest evidence of the momentum is that the NJ Department of Environmental

¹ Commonly known as heart & blood vessels, lungs, skin, digestive tract, immune system, liver, nervous system, developing organs, kidneys and bladder, reproductive organs, blood forming, muscles & bones, and vision/eyes systems.

laboratory best practices, going back forever. Despite our calls for wider testing, the sewage pipeline was analyzed for only one toxin, Mercury, by the Army

Eatontown Sewer Authority reported a seemingly strange situation: i.e., Fort Monmouth complained that their sewage treatment fees were significantly higher after the base closure than before. The ESA cited higher flow of effluent and concluded that surface and groundwater had infiltrated the infrastructure from corroded FM sewage pipes. ESA suggested conversely, that the same widespread corrosion of pipes could contribute the high levels of contaminants into the environment in groundwater, soils, and possibly surface waters.

NJ Friends of Clearwater's Traveling Environmental Festival Reached Up to 2,500 Students in the Fall of 2011!!

By George Moffat, TEF Director

The Traveling Environmental Fair (TEF), a centerpiece of the N.J. Friends of Clearwater's environmental education and advocacy program, reached about 500 grammar school students in three schools this Spring semester, plus about 2,000 youngsters at the "Ocean Fun Day" at Sandy Hook.

The TEF program, a series of one-hour presentations that were held at Cove Avenue School in Hazlet, Memorial School in Union Beach, and the Center School in Keyport, includes an introduction to New Jersey's land, air and water problems; the critical role plankton play in the food chain; the ocean's role in maintaining the atmosphere's oxygen levels through photosynthesis and generating fresh water through the "water cycle;" and the adverse impact unnecessary land-based nutrients have on New Jersey's coastal waters.

Students then were cycled through three hands-on, interactive stations. One deals with the pollution threats to a wide variety of marine life in Raritan Bay and other estuaries, featuring a fish tank with live killies, crabs, snails, and a grumpy puffer fish. It also includes a generous supply of less-than-live crab, clam, and mussel shells, egg casing, coral, and other beachcombing artifacts. Another station discusses how non-source (or multi-source pollution) can flow from streams, rivers, bays into oceans. The third station provides a study of live, fresh-water plankton under a microscope.

TEF was invited to five schools, but one failed to get back to us with proposed dates, and the other canceled because of insurance requirements. The teachers and administrators at the other schools had nothing but praise for the program. We hope to visit four to five schools during the Fall semester.

We benefited from several experienced instructors: Jodi Vergilio, an instructor at Brookdale Community College's Ocean Institute, a community outreach marine program based at Sandy Hook; Patrick Vansaghi, a student at BCC's Science Field Station at Sandy Hook who has taught TEF for several semesters; Paula Phillips, who has a degree in biology and recently concluded a teaching project at Kean College; and TEF director George Moffatt. Special thanks to Jack Charlton, who raises the zooplankton for the program, and Bob Macaluso, manager of the BCC Science Field Station at Sandy Hook, who helps provide instructors, storage space, and live marine specimens. (Alas, we owe him a starfish that was devoured by the puffer.)



The second phase of TEF's outreach was a tabling event at "Ocean Fun Day," an all-day outdoor exhibit of educational, environmental, and governmental organizations, plus "green" vendors, overlooking Raritan Bay at Sandy Hook. "Fun Day" usually attracts about 2,500 people, mostly youngsters, but this year, despite threatening

weather, the event drew about 6,000 people – according to the event’s sponsors-- at least half of who were students. Visitors to our TEF “Raritan Bay” exhibit sometimes stood several rows deep to view our fish tank full of live killies, crabs, snails, and that “killer” puffer fish, as well as our display of crab, clam, and mussel shells and other marine artifacts.

NJF Clearwater representatives President Joellen Lundy and George Moffat were augmented by stalwart semi-retired members Barbara and Jack Charlton, who publicized the Festival, and member emeritus Ray Cann.

“Fun Day,” an established event run for years by the NJ Marine Sciences Consortium (now renamed the NJ Sea Grant Consortium), provides a great opportunity for NJF Clearwater to reach with little effort large numbers of children and their parents to instill the conservation ethic in our next generation of citizen leaders. This year’s attendance figures indicate it is an exceptional program to educate youngsters, and we should plan now to take full advantage of it next year, as well.

An Assault to Make NJ’s Environment Laws Bloodless Would Make Count Dracula Proud

by Joellen Lundy

Count Dracula lives, thanks to pro-development legislators in Trenton who are protecting the profits of developers – and their own political careers -- instead of the health and safety of all of us.

New Jersey, with the dirtiest air, water and land -- including about 225 polluted sites identified by the EPA -- is the unhealthiest and most polluted state in the nation. Yet many legislators continually scheme to line the pockets of their political contributors – developers and associated businesses – while piously claiming they are trying to create jobs for the unemployed.

The latest assault on our environmental is a favorite of developers, Assembly Bill A-1338, which will extend – again -- current state building permits, while exempting them from any tougher regulations that were enacted after the permits were first granted. Even permits that have expired would be resurrected – the “Dracula clause” in the bill. Whether resuscitated or resurrected, these permits will be exempt from current environmental laws and regulations, no matter how much damage they will do to our health and well being.

This bill will degrade every area of the state, especially the environmentally important but fragile northwestern Highlands, Raritan and Barnegat Bays, and the Pine Barrens, whose environmental protections have been assaulted by developers for years. Some legislators are playing on our fears about the economy and job security by falsely claiming our environmental controls caused the recent recession and current unemployment problems.

“We’re really trying to create jobs,” they intone. Hardly. This bill is just one of many such attacks – the Governor’s conditional veto of pollution limits in Barnegat Bay, and the Legislature’s votes to weaken stormwater protections, delay water quality planning rules, and allow sewers to be built in environmentally sensitive areas. To benefit their political supporters and, yes, to politically stay alive themselves, these legislators need Count Dracula. We don’t.

Whale Pond Brook Watershed Events

- March 3: MacroInvertebrate and Standard Water Testing Methods, Ross Island, Lake Takanassee, Elberon
- March 24: Cranberry Brook Cleanup, 99 Corbett Way, Eatontown and Red Lobster parking lot, Ocean Township