

# Solutions eNewsletter

June 2012

Volume 6, Number 6

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Monthly Joint Clearwater--Sierra Club  
Meeting, June 25, 6-8:00pm,  
Student Life Center (SLC)  
Brookdale Community College (BCC)

Weekly Festival Meeting  
Every Wed. Evening, 7-9:00pm  
June 27: 25 Peters Place, Red Bank  
July, 5-18, 82 East Main St., Holmdel

Enviro Committee Meeting  
July 15, 8:30-10:00am  
Cobblestone Restaurant, Eatontown

Monthly Joint Clearwater--Sierra Club  
Meeting, July 23, 6-8:00pm,  
SLC, BCC

## URGENT APPEAL

The NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival has been a Jersey Shore tradition since 1976. Many generations have enjoyed its music and message. However, without urgently needed funding, we will be unable to hold the Festival this year. We still need to raise a minimum of \$12,000 to go forward.

The Festival is the largest and longest-running environmentally-themed festival in New Jersey. The festival has been held in August for 36 years. For the past 11 years, the festival has been held at Sunset Park in the City of Asbury Park and all previous years at Sandy Hook.

We are working to bring our 37th annual festival to Asbury Park on August 11th, but we are in critical need of those financial donations. Unlike many organizations, this is the first public appeal for help we have ever made. Your donation, large or small, can make a huge difference.

By eliminating the entry fees, we have seen a big increase in attendance and greater diversity the last two years. NJ Friends of Clearwater, true to its Pete Seeger tradition, is dedicated to bringing its environmental message to as many people as possible.

Click the "PayPal Donate" button in the left column and pay by using your PayPal account or any of the listed credit cards, including AMEX, MasterCard, Visa, or Discover. If this Donate link doesn't work, be sure to visit NJFC homepage for an active link and the rest of the story.

[Read More](#)



Google Directions to Monthly Meeting @ Student Life Center, Brookdale

Board of Directors  
President: Joellen Lundy  
VP: Jim Franchi  
Treasurer: Tim Johnson  
Ed Dlugosz, Ben Forest, Andrea Spinelli,  
Marylin Johnson, George Moffatt, Ingrid Heldt, Lynn Humphrey

Article Deadline for Next Issue is Last Friday of Month

**Donate to NJFC**



### Ocean Fun Day

NJ Friends of Clearwater had a very successful day the Ocean Fun Day, Sandy Hook. Kids had a great time with our hands-on displays and we collected hundreds of signatures on three different environmental petitions. Making this possible were members Joellen Lundy, George Moffatt, Marylin Johnson, and Barbara and Jack Charlton.

### Army Concedes Existence of Un-named Stream

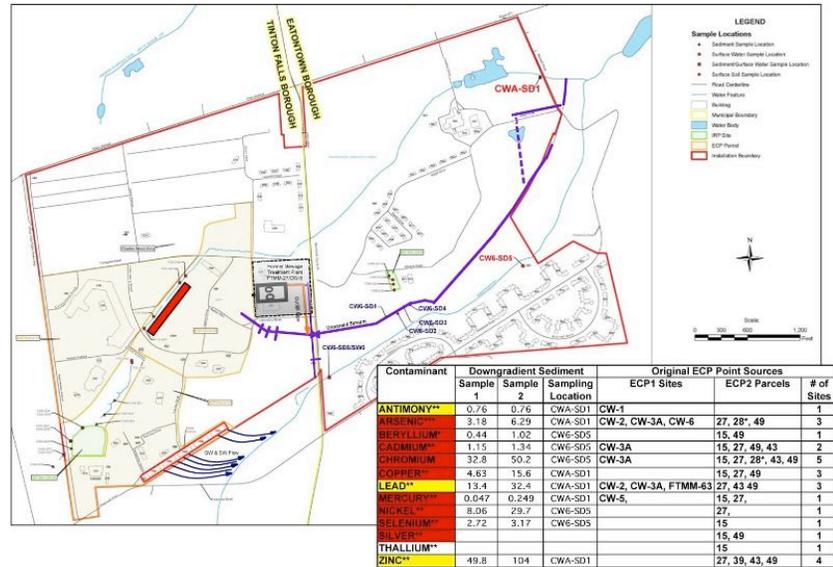
By Ed Dlugosz, Director, NJFC Environmental Action

Another portion of the April 5, 2012 RAB meeting [See Source of Wampum Lake Pollution in Dispute, below] was an Army white paper response attempting to disprove my long-documented assertion that an Un-named Stream existed as another contaminant pathway to Wampum Lake. I had six months worth of photographic, video, and GPS collected documentary proof.

Representing Eatontown and Clearwater on the RAB, I was notified that a tour had been organized to disprove the existence of the Un-named Stream on the morning of May 2, 2012. I had tried but failed to open the tour up to Eatontown officials and other non-RAB members. However the Army did open it up to FMERA and other friendly organizations. What transpired was more that the announced Un-named Stream issue, which very successfully proved the existence of that stream.

What they didn't announce was that it was going to be a magical mystery tour of almost all of the on-FM contaminated sites and some alleged off-site ones. Rather than a studied

update of the sites, it was more like an LA barrio-style drive-by shooting. The Army van hardly slowed down while tour leader Ms Wanda Green served as a quiet narrator. There were two sessions in the van, which made it harder to hear. I asked a lot of questions and also challenged her assertions on other items. One thing was obvious for the first half of the tour was that the Army was going through the motions. I brought up the topics of landfill capping, underground toxic plume remediation, vapor intrusion, etc. All we found out were that the new ACE contractors were not in place, neither to continue to test or remediate yet. In these situations in the past, whenever there was a lull, the toxicity readings went through the roof.



It had rained moderately several days earlier. When we finally got to the kickoff place near the Un-named Stream, we had to don white Tyvek protective overalls, booties, and hoods to move into the woods (ticks and allergens). At this point a good number of members, who like me had to take vacation hours off to be there, left. Once we were underway, the Army begrudgingly admitted (to my researched question) that the old contaminated Sewage Treatment Plant (CW-5) emptied its effluent into the Un-named Stream for 40 years. The same CW-5 plant that processed all the solvents and heavy metals that went down the drains at the Hex, Pulse Labs, Eatontown, Watson Labs, etc. We were able to watch the flow from that west, Tinton Falls side of Hope Road through a major culvert marked by the Army as CW-29 to the emerge at CW-31 on the east side of Hope.

We followed the stream from there through a machete-cleared path (Damn, I wish I had one to have avoided all the thorn scratches from my 6 previous treks). We were able to see the stream flow through the woods, into a bog-like wetlands, and easily empty onto the ditch along the RR tracks all the way to Maxwell and beyond the culvert to the Wampum Lake. [Satellite Photo clearly shows the path thru the deep woods.] It was similar to my other visits but the flow was not as strong

as in several of my previous documented visits. We all agreed that it was a stream but not full-time across its full length. Even when not raining it flows into the permanent wetlands of the golf course which would be a prime place to continue sediment testing.



Someone used the phrase "an ephemeral stream". You may want to use that phrase for a river in the desert in Arizona but this was a stream that anytime it rained more than 1/10 of an inch, it fully qualified as a stream that flushes out the contaminants gathered for the 65 years of CWA R&D and production; a true part-time stream. I will document the remainder of the tour in the news section of our NJFC Website at:

<http://www.mcclearwater.org/news.php>

#### **Monthly Joint Clearwater-Sierra Club Meeting: NY/NJ Baykeeper Discusses on June 25 Pollution Control Programs in Hudson-Raritan Watershed**

June 25 - Debbie Mans, Executive Director of the N.Y/N.J. Baykeeper headquartered in Keyport, will report on the health of New Jersey and New York bays, especially Raritan Bay, at 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 25 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft. The presentation, 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.

Mans also will discuss the ups and downs of her organization's disputes with the NJDEP over Baykeeper's attempt to determine if ecologically important oysters, whose beds were decimated by overharvesting and pollution, can be repopulated in Raritan Bay. The DEP, having been criticized by the USEPA, shut down the Baykeeper's effort to reintroduce the oyster. The DEP claimed that if poachers illegally took the oysters from the bay's polluted waters, the contaminated oysters could make people ill and jeopardize the state's entire shellfish industry. The U.S. Navy came to Debbie's rescue, which she shall relate in full. Debbie's presentation will complement a recent presentation on the health of marine estuaries by Clyde Mackenzie, senior researcher at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory (NMFS/NOAA) at Sandy Hook.

Raritan Bay had been an extremely rich and productive marine habitat until land-based pollution and habitat destruction in the latter half of the 20th Century contaminated its pristine waters and harmed or killed many marine species. State and federal pollution controls have improved the bay's water quality, but the state recommends not eating fish caught in its waters and prohibits harvesting all shellfish.

The Baykeeper organization was formed in 1989 to work with state officials and citizens' groups to end pollution in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary watershed, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, discourage inappropriate development, and carry out public education. Its programs aren't limited to the shorelines but extend inland throughout the Hudson-Raritan watershed, including a recent purchase of several wooded areas of wetlands along the Third River in Bloomfield.

At the Lincroft meeting, a cash buffet begins at 6:00 p.m. and Mans' presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

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](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf).

### **Source of Wampum Lake Pollution in Dispute**

by Nicole Antonucci, Atlanticville Staff Writer,

Using the same 20-lake study by the county health department, Ed Dlugosz, chairman of the Eatontown Environmental Commission and a member of RAB, said the metal levels in the lake do not compare to those present in the other two water bodies Barricelli cited. "

[Contamination in] Swimming River and Shadow Lake are less than a quarter of the intensity of Wampum Lake," he said. According to Dlugosz, three streams pass through Fort Monmouth and empty into Wampum Lake. All three streams show contamination of heavy metals including beryllium, cadmium, zinc, lead, arsenic, nickel, and chromium [and 8 additional metals and other contaminants], Dlugosz told the environmental commission on March 15.

Bill Simmons, environmental health coordinator for the Monmouth County Health 19 Department, explained to the board that the Fort Monmouth sewer plant is another point source. "In addition, the second largest source of metals is sewer," he said. The contamination of Wampum Lake has been an ongoing concern for local environmental groups who are now seeking funds to conduct an independent study of the lake located in Wampum Park on West Street and Route 35.

To get to the bottom of the contamination issue, members of RAB voted to apply to the U.S. Army for a grant last year. Wanda Green, environmental coordinator for the federal Base Realignment and

Closure Commission, said the \$25,000 grant would pay for an independent professional to come in and explain Army reports and whether any operations on the fort impacted Wampum Lake. To date, the application is still undergoing review, she said.

Members of the board asked that if the grant is awarded, the Army provide a professional who has no connection to Fort Monmouth. "We want an independent person that has no involvement ... that could come in, look at all of the studies and all the information and can say this is what the information is," Jonathon Cohen, of the Tinton Falls Environmental Commission, said. "That is what we are asking for this money to pay for."

Barricelli argued the grant is not needed. In his presentation, he explained that the same metals present in Wampum Lake were also found in Shadow Lake and the Swimming River Reservoir and that research has shown most of the metals are found in motor oil and runoff from roadways. "The tire surface that hits the road isn't pure rubber, it's rubber with zinc or copper and other metals. Your tires have to wear, and all that tire wear ends up on the roads and in the gutters and the lakes and streams," Barricelli said. "Your brakes and brake pads are metallic. Every time you tap your brakes they wear and brake dust falls on the road and into the lakes and streams." He added that some metals such as arsenic are found in many agricultural pesticides. [Barricelli did not even acknowledge the Fort could be a contributor at all, which Board members and audience say hurt his credibility.]

During a brief history of Eatontown and the Fort Monmouth area, Barricelli explained that the area was a crossing point for railroads, which stimulated residential, commercial and industrial growth. "Intensive steam-powered railroad operations began in 1861 in the near vicinity of Wampum Lake and continued in the 20th century," he said. There was open coal storage adjacent to the rail line and there was open disposal of ashes from commercial and domestic uses, he said, adding that coal contains some of the metals detected in the lake sediment. "The long urban history in the vicinity of Wampum Lake, as well as its small size, contribute to ... metal contamination levels. The sediments in the streams as they leave Fort Monmouth don't have those high levels of total metals that are found in the lake sediment," Barricelli said.

While Dlugosz acknowledged that the metals could be found in other runoff, he said the metals are also found [in greater in more severe levels on FM] in batteries and electronics, which were a major component of the fort operations. Brian Charnick, of the Eatontown Sewage Authority, asked if there is any information regarding the sewage pipes throughout Fort Monmouth, which he said are broken. "The pipes in the ground are broken," he said. "If rainwater is coming in, it is washing out sanitary waste."

Green argued that there is no evidence that the pipes are compromised. "You're making a lot of assumptions. You can assume the pipes that are leading from the Meyers Center are broken. You can assume all these things, but we don't have anything that shows that. FMERA [Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority] has the study of the actual sewer line." She explained that the Army did an analysis of the system, and samples taken at the sewage treatment plant did not show metals in the sewage system. "Whether there is water going in or out, what this is saying is that we do not believe that there is any contamination in the sewer lines," she said. "If there is piping that is broken and there is contamination coming out, it would

have been identified." When asked about the reports of increased sewage flow now that the fort is unoccupied, Green said that she has not received any such reports. "We get a bill, that is all we get," she said.

Chartnick argued that reports from the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority show that the sewage flow has increased after the base closed, specifically during rainfalls.

Members of the public at the meeting argued that Barricelli's presentation could not be used as a viable source of evidence because it lacks scientific data.

"I am really offended by this Wampum Lake report," said Sara Breslow, a member of the Eatontown Environmental Commission. "It is the most unscientific presentation. I don't understand how anyone could put that up, since it is practically opinion versus proper testing and scientific testing."

Anthony Talerico Jr., president of the Eatontown Borough Council, added his own concerns. "I think some people may say that this study is not scientific. My concern as a member of the governing body, I would like to see some indication that there is more upstream testing," Talerico said. "If there is more testing, please be a little bit more open and share the information. I have advocated at the local level to have ... a lot more people involved to present this information."

The RAB members agreed to allow Dlugosz to make a presentation on Wampum Lake at the next meeting in July.

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