

Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #13

www.bcec.us

Spring 2007

BCEC Contact Information



BCEC meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month and are open to the public.

Meetings are held at the **Carlslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Street, at 7:00pm.**

Mail may be sent to BCEC at:
Bordentown City Environmental Commission,
City Hall,
324 Farnsworth Ave.,
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Email:
bcec@mail.com
(Send an email to join the BCEC email list)

Website:
www.bcec.us

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OUR WATERSHED, OUR AMBASSADOR

Do you know what a watershed is? The New Jersey Watershed Ambassador Program (NJWAP) is a community-oriented AmeriCorps program created to raise awareness about watersheds and watershed issues in New Jersey. Through this program, twenty AmeriCorps members are each placed in one of twenty Watershed Management Areas within the state to serve their local communities. Each AmeriCorps member is responsible for monitoring the waterways and educating the communities within their specific watershed.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a specific body of water, such as a river, lake, stream, or bay. The residents of Bordentown City live in **Watershed Management Area 20**, which is the **Doctors, Assiscunk, and Crosswicks Watershed**. WMA 20 also includes smaller Inner Coastal Plain watersheds that eventually drain to the Delaware Estuary below Trenton. It encompasses **253 square miles with 27 municipalities**, and includes parts of **Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean counties**. WMA 20 is bordered on the west by the Delaware River, on the north by Trenton and Route 195, on the east by Six Flags Great Adventure and Colliers Mill Wildlife Management Area, and on the south by Fort Dix and McGuire military bases.

Watershed Ambassadors are trained to monitor the water bodies of New Jersey through visual and biological monitoring protocols. The members are also available to work with and/or train community volunteers in these protocols. Aside from stream monitoring training, the ambassadors can also work with the community to organize stream clean-ups, storm drain markings, tree plantings, and other activities. Watershed Ambassadors are also available to make presentations to community and civic groups, as well as to school groups. The interactive hands-on presentations provide information about water and watershed issues in New Jersey. Along with educating students and citizens about water and watersheds, the members also empower them to get involved in their own watersheds.

The NJDEP Division of Watershed Management began hosting this environmental AmeriCorps program in September 2000. The watershed program works to improve the quality of New Jersey's waterways, and therefore improve the quality of life in New Jersey. The program also works to improve water quality by exploring relationships between people and the environment, facilitating community-based environmental activities, and empowering residents to make responsible and informed decisions regarding their watersheds.

To schedule a free presentation, or to learn about volunteer monitoring, please contact:

Rachel Orobono, NJ Watershed Ambassador Program, WMA 20, (609) 586-9603 or AmbassadorWMA20@aol.com

Upcoming Events

Earth Talk, March 27, 7:00 PM

An Inconvenient Truth: Come see the Academy Award-winning documentary film about global warming on the big screen. Discussion to follow. *Carlslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Street.*

Earth Day Cleanup, April 21, 10:00 AM

Join us as we clean up the **Bordentown Beach area**. *End of Park Street, past RiverLINE station.*

Earth Talk, April 24, 7:00 PM

Recycling: Trash or Treasure? Nationally recognized recycling expert Wayne DeFeo explains how residents and the City can increase recycling rates & save \$. Free recycling buckets. *Carlslake Community Ctr.*

Arbor Day Tree Planting, April 28, 8:30 AM

Help plant shade trees throughout Bordentown City. Bring a shovel and gloves. Sponsored by the Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee. *Meet at City Hall, 324 Farnsworth Avenue.*

Bordentown Street Fair, May 19 & 20

Stop by the BCEC table for updates on local environmental issues. Free drawing for a compost bin.

Earth Talk, May 22, 7:00 PM

Threatened and Endangered Species of NJ: Guest Speaker: Margaret O'Gorman, Exec. Director of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ and Bordentown City resident. Free door prizes! *Carlsake Comm.Ctr.*

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

Thorntown Creek Greenway Update

BCEC has applied for a NJ Recreational Trails Grant to develop a nature trail along Thorntown Creek, with access from Elizabeth Street. The property behind Gilder baseball field is owned by the City, and is a lovely stretch of wooded floodplain that extends from Rt. 206 to Elizabeth Street. The grant seeks to create a walking trail along this section of the Creek (future plans include extending a greenway trail all the way to Crosswicks Creek). The grant is for \$10,000, with \$2,500 to be matched by the City in the form of in-kind (volunteer) labor and services. The grant seeks funding for interpretive signage, trail markers, several benches, a bicycle rack, and bollards to prevent vehicle access from Elizabeth Street. Notification of the grant will be in September. However, BCEC will be scheduling a Trail Work Day in the summer or fall to start the process of laying out and constructing the trail itself.



Thorntown Creek Greenway, Winter 2007

Computer Recycling Event

Burlington County Office of Recycling will hold a "Computer Roundup" on Saturday, March 24, 9am - 2 pm at the Burlington County Resource Recovery Complex, on Rt. 543 (exit 52A off I-295) in Mansfield. Bring unwanted computer hard drives (CPUs) and monitors (up to six), keyboards, modems, printers, fax machines, cell phones and VCRs. For more information contact, 609-499-1001 or recycle@co.burlington.nj.us. Free to Burlington County residents (no businesses or non-profits).

A Healthier, Cleaner, Greener, Burlington County

The Burlington County Environmental Health Committee will be holding an Environmental Health Conference on March 24, 2007 from 9:00am-1:00pm at the Rutgers EcoComplex 1200 Florence-Columbus Road Bordentown.

The conference will feature radio personality **Mike McGrath**, the host of "You Bet Your Garden" on WHYY. Mr. McGrath will be discussing home composting and the use of natural remedies over pesticides and insecticides. In addition to Mr. McGrath, attendees will receive an update on the environmental health of Burlington County and a discussion on lead poisoning prevention. A special highlight of the day is a tour of the tilapia and hydroponic tomato research that is being done at the center.

All residents are invited to partake in the computer recycling round-up, big shredder event and to bring their own bag for free mulch which will be held at the Resource Recovery Complex.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Holly Funkhouser Cucuzzella at 609-265-5548 or HFunkhouser@co.burlington.nj.us

BCEC Earth Talks Speakers Series

The first two *Earth Talks* were very well-attended. More than 25 people turned out for each of the programs, and there was general enthusiasm for more such programs related to environmental issues. Future *Earth Talks* will include:

March 27, An Inconvenient Truth (film and discussion on global warming)

April 24, Recycling: Trash or Treasure? (speaker and discussion about improving recycling rate locally and cost savings to the City)

May 22, Threatened & Endangered Species of NJ (speaker and discussion about endangered animals, including species in the Bordentown area)

Earth Day NJ Events Calendar

NJDEP's listing of events across New Jersey for the month of April:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds/earthday/april.htm>

Environmental Calendar

Wednesday, April 4

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, April 11

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carslake Community Ctr., 7pm

April 15-20

Nat'l Environmental Education Week
www.eeweek.org

Saturday, April 21

5th Annual Earth Day Cleanup
Location: Bordentown Beach,
end of Park Street. 10:00am

Tuesday, April 24

Earth Talk Speaker Series

Recycling: Trash or Treasure?

Learn how residents and City can increase recycling rates and save tax dollars. Guest Speaker: Wayne DeFeo. Carslake Comm. Center, 7:00pm. Free recycle buckets.

Saturday, April 28

Arbor Day Tree Planting

City Hall, 8:30am. Bring shovel and gloves.

Wednesday, May 2

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, May 9

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carslake Community Ctr., 7pm

Saturday/Sunday, May 19 & 20

Bordentown City Street Fair
Visit BCEC table for enviro updates; free drawing for a compost bin.

Tuesday, May 22

Earth Talk Speaker Series

Threatened & Endangered

Species of NJ: Guest speaker:

Margaret O'Gorman, Exec. Dir.,
Conserve Wildlife Foundation of
NJ. Carslake Comm. Ctr., 7:00pm