

Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, Spring/Summer 2003



BORDENTOWN'S EARTH DAY ARTISTS

The Earth Day Groceries Project is a cost-free environmental awareness project in which students decorate paper grocery bags with environmental messages for Earth Day, and is one of the oldest and largest educational projects on the

Internet (see www.earthdaybags.org). This project is designed to enhance students' environmental knowledge, along with skills in art, computer science, geography, math and science. It also helps educate and empower youth to make a difference in their communities.

The BCEC coordinated the inaugural Earth Day Groceries Project in the Bordentown area with the teachers and students of the Peter Muschal Elementary School and the ShopRite of Bordentown. Steve Halliday, manager of ShopRite, was contacted by BCEC to participate in the project. Mr Halliday was supportive, and a few bundles of

ShopRite paper grocery bags were "borrowed" for the project.

With the enthusiastic support of Principal Kate Napolitano-Burke, Peter Muschal School students in Mark Housel's Health class and Heather Garecht's fifth grade class then decorated the bags with pictures of the Earth (along with plenty of drawings of trees and animals and fish and birds!) and environmental messages, showing their support for protecting and preserving the environment.



On the morning of Earth Day, April 22, BCEC members returned the decorated bags to ShopRite, where employees then distributed the bags (full of groceries!) throughout the day to pleasantly surprised shoppers.

BCEC wishes to thank both ShopRite and the Peter Muschal Elementary School for their support and participation. Look out for the Earth Day Groceries Project in the Bordentown area in 2004!

BCEC CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Meetings are held at the Carlslake Community Center at 7:00PM:

Check out
the BCEC
website
at
WWW.BCEC.US

Email may be sent to the BCEC at:
mail@bcec.us

Mail may be sent to the BCEC
c/o
Bordentown City Hall
324 Farnsworth Avenue
Bordentown, NJ
08505

Tour De Sol Races through Burlington



On May 10, 2003, Burlington City was host to The Great American Green Transportation Festival, the Tour De Sol. Sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), this event showcases the latest in transportation technology to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

Student teams at the college and high school level engineer earth-friendly vehicles to compete in the Tour de Sol championship in Wash-

ington, DC on May 14th. The range of vehicles includes hybrid and alternative fueled cars, electric cars, solar assisted electric vehicles and one person commuter vehicles. Recycled vegetable oil was a popular fuel source at this year's test drive in Burlington, which also featured ethanol fueled trucks and a hybrid bus.

For more information on this event, or sustainable energy, visit the NESEA's website at: www.nesea.org.

Our "Unofficial" State Mineral

South Jersey's claim to mineralogic fame might be its "greensand marl" deposits, stretching across the inner coastal plain from Monmouth to Salem Counties. Greensand deposits contain the mineral glauconite, commonly found as a green to black pellet of micaceous clay. Glauconite was formed in an offshore marine environment during the Tertiary and Cretaceous periods, 45 to 85 million years ago. Greensand deposits often contain phosphorus and calcium carbonate, and in some cases pyrite, which can create extremely acid, or "poison marl," conditions. The greensand belt includes the Merchantville formation, which makes up much of the substratum of Bordentown City.

Glauconite-bearing soils are among the best agricultural soils in the state, and greensand has been used as a soil amendment in New Jersey since the 1760's. Although once considered a valuable potash source, its real benefit is to soil physical properties, through increased water and nutrient holding capacity. Greensand use peaked in the late 1800's, when up to 1 million tons were dug per year, with application rates of 20 to 50 tons per acre. As late as 1923 there were still about 80 active greensand pits in New Jersey, but with the advent of chemical fertilizers, the industry faded. Glauconite has found other uses through the years as a

binding additive for brick making, in the production of green glass, and as a water softener.

Glauconite is still used in water treatment, and the only remaining commercial greensand producer in the United States is the Inversand Corporation in Sewell, Gloucester County. Manganese-coated greensand is used by the Bordentown Water Treatment Plant to remove iron, manganese, and hydrogen sulfides from groundwater.

Inversand also supplies a Pennsylvania company, Fertrell, which markets a greensand soil conditioner. The Sewell pit, like most greensand deposits, has also been an extremely valuable site for Cretaceous and Tertiary fossils.

Greensand is a "colorful" chapter in our state's rich and diverse natural history.

Bordentown Sewerage Authority At Work

BCEC was privileged to tour the Bordentown Sewerage Authority (BSA) plant this winter, escorted by Executive Director, Frank Hartman. BSA provides sewerage services for Bordentown City and the Township. BSA, established in 1986, services mostly residential customers, but does service some non-residential entities such as hotels, restaurants, etc.

Using the latest technology, the plant operates 7 days a week. BCEC members were interested to learn of the biological means by which sewerage is broken down. In this process, material that comes into the plant is treated with "bugs" (bacteria) which break down the waste products.

BCEC also learned about BSA's community activities. Besides providing educational materials to schools, BSA awards yearly college scholarships to 2 local students in the amount of \$1,500. For more info, call 609-291-9105 or visit their website: www.bordentownsa.org.

Community Calendar

June 6

5pm-9pm

First Fridays
Bicycling Festival

South Warren St.
Trenton

609-394-8018

lkasabach@aol.com

June 7

9am-12pm

Spring walk on
Bordentown
bluffs & North-
ern Community
Park

Friends of the
Hamilton-
Trenton Marsh

Meet at Bradlees

732-821-8310

June 7

1pm

Removal of
invasive Boston
ivy at
Bordentown
bluffs

Delaware &
Raritan Canal
State Park

732-873-3050

sfox@dandrcanal.com

June 8

10am-4pm

Burlington
County Earth
Fair

Smithfield Park

Easthampton

609-265-5068

What about the Drought?



On March 21, 2003, NJDEP lifted the "Drought Warning" designation in the remaining portions of the state, including the Southwest drought region, which includes northern Burlington County. No statewide water use restrictions are in effect at this time.

Check out www.njdrought.org or call Drought Hotline at 1-800-4-ITS-DRY for more information on how to conserve water all year long.

If you want to receive the BCEC Quarterly Newsletter by email, send an email to mail@bcec.us