

HORIZON

Newsletter from the Assumpink Environmental Institute (AEI)



Summer 2010 (Vol. 50)

Celebrate National Pollinator Week! Bring Your Family to the MCSCD Pollinator Picnic on June 24, 2010!

A world without pollinators? *Unthinkable!* An estimated three quarters of leading global food crops rely on animals for pollination¹, including bees, beetles, moths, butterflies, birds and bats. Managed European honeybees are essential pollinators in America's intensely agricultural areas, however, declines related to Colony Collapse Disorder have led researchers to look at *native* pollinators in new ways. "There are thousands of species of native, wild pollinators, and in agricultural landscapes where their habitat needs are met, they are sufficient to pollinate crops," says Rutgers Assistant Professor Rachael Winfree. "Recent work from our lab showed that native pollinators alone fully pollinate over 90% of the watermelon farms in New Jersey and Pennsylvania." Most wild pollinators nest individually in the ground or in twigs and need undisturbed, pesticide-free areas in which to do so¹.

1. Winfree, R. 2008. Pollinator-dependent crops: an increasingly risky business. *Current Biology*. R968-R969

To learn more about New Jersey's native pollinators, bring your family to the MCSCD **Pollinator Picnic** on Thursday, June 24, 2010, from 4pm to 7pm at the Mercer County Soil Conservation District, 508 Hughes Drive, Hamilton Square, NJ, 08690.

A bee is a bee,
...is not a bee!

Did you know that
many of NJ's native
bee species are solitary
nesters that rarely
sting?

Bring the kids, a blanket and a picnic dinner!
Light refreshments will be provided.

Activities will include games, stories, crafts, face painting and the NJ Soil Tunnel. Presentations and pollinator garden displays will be provided for adults. Presenters include:

* Rutgers Assistant Professor and Native Bee Specialist, Rachael Winfree.

* New Jersey Master Beekeeper and Mason Bee Specialist, Melissa Palmer.

* Gardening Q&A with Mercer County Horticulturist, Barbara Bromley. Bring your lawn and garden questions!

For details and a schedule of presentations, visit:
<http://www.mercerscd.org/education/pollinators.htm>

The HORIZON Newsletter Is Going Green: Don't Miss Out!

After a brief pause in publication, the **HORIZON** newsletter is back! And we've gone green! Our newsletter will now be available in electronic format only. To ensure that you continue receiving this informative newsletter about conservation activities in Mercer County and environmental education efforts at the MCSCD and AEI, it's important that you take a moment to call or email us with your email address. You may contact us at: Ph: (609) 586-9603 Fax: (609) 586-1117 or Email: heather1mercer@aol.com. Copies of the newsletter will also be posted at <http://www.mercerscd.org/education/education.htm> on a quarterly basis.



For more information about National Pollinator Week and ways to promote pollinator conservation, visit the Pollinator Partnership website: <http://pollinator.org/>

To learn about the MCSCD "Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom" program, visit <http://www.mercerscd.org/education/pollinators.htm>

Supervisors		Mercer County Soil Conservation District est. 1959		Staff
Peggy McNeill, Chairperson Gary Mount, Vice Chairperson Priscilla Hayes, Treasurer Edward J. DiPolvere, Member Scott Ellis, Member Sharif Branham NRCS District Conservationist				William F. Brash, Jr., Director Linda Sandusky, Office Administrator Paul Schiariti, P.E., NPS Coordinator Heather McNeil-Nazareth, Resource Spec./Educ. Coord. Cheryl Lowe, District Clerk Erin Bice, Agricultural Resource Specialist Jillian Jaworski, Agricultural Resource Specialist Frank Wu, Agricultural Resource Specialist

**Attention Engineers and Developers:
Revised MCSCD Fee Schedule is Now Online**

An updated MCSCD fee schedule for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plan applications became effective on April 15, 2010. The new fee schedule is available for download from <http://mercerscd.org/soil/forms.htm>.

**Attention Teachers and Students:
New Timeline for Annual Conservation Poster Contest**

In an effort to align with the national contest rules, the deadline for the 2010 New Jersey Conservation Poster Contest has been pushed back into the fall semester. Local entries will be due to the Mercer County Soil Conservation District no later than Friday, October 22, 2010. The theme of the 2010 Poster Contest is **“Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats”**. Winners of the Mercer County contest will be automatically entered into the statewide contest. Prizes are available at each level. Contest brochures, including rules and entry forms, will be posted on the MCSCD website at <http://mercerscd.org/education/contest.htm> as soon as they are available.



* * * *This is our last paper version of the HORIZON newsletter* * * *

Don't forget to call or send us an email with your email address so that you can continue to receive valuable information about the conservation of our local natural resources!

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 Summer 2010
 Celebrate National Pollinator Week!
 June 21 - 27, 2010

New Jersey Department of Agriculture
 Mercer County Soil Conservation District
 508 Hughes Drive
 Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
 609/586-9603 FAX:586-1117
 Email: mercersoill@aol.com
 Web: www.mercerscd.org

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