

HORIZON

Newsletter from the Assumpink Environmental Institute (AEI)

December 2010 (Vol. 52)



Local Poster Contest Winners Announced

Once again, local students have produced a beautiful array of artwork for the annual Conservation Poster Contest! This year's theme was "**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.**"

"Kids have a lot to say; a poster contest is a good way for students to express themselves," says Ron Maurais, a third grade teacher at Grant School in Trenton. "Students are able to provide a voice in their community and even help protect their environment," explains Maurais. "Our class was able to combine our Science lessons with this activity. We learned about water, the ecosystem, evaporation and precipitation. Students were concerned about ground water and keeping our Earth healthy and clean. They understand that the small things they do can make a big impact for our environment." Two of Mr. Maurais' students earned prizes in this year's poster contest.

Photos of the winning artwork can be found on page 2, and on our website at <http://mercerscd.org/education/contest.htm>. For details about next year's contest, please call the Mercer County Soil Conservation District at (609) 586-9603.

7th – 9th Grade

First Place: Yanjie Qiu, Grover Middle School, West Windsor

Second Place: Mimi Fang, West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South, West Windsor

4th – 6th Grade

First Place: Sophia Cai, Princeton Charter School, Princeton

Second Place: Michelle Ancil, Timberlane Middle School, Pennington

2nd – 3rd Grade

First Place: Bernabe Lugo, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

Second Place: Angel Chaj, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

The First and Second Place winners in each grade category received \$100 and \$50 cash prizes, respectively.

The First Place entries were forwarded to the State level competition. We are pleased to report that **Yanjie Qiu** earned First Place and **Sophia Cai** earned Second Place in the State competition! Congratulations to all our participating students!

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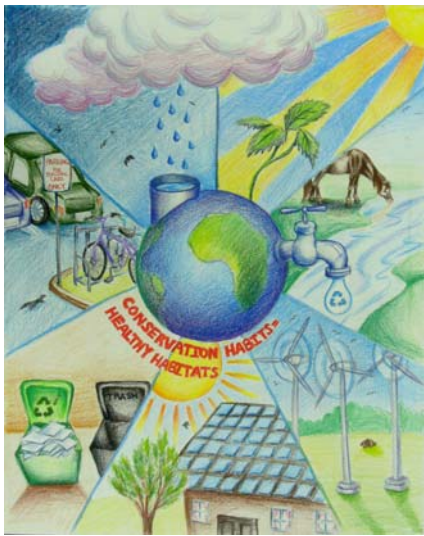
- 2010 Conservation Poster Contest Winners
- Cub Scout Pack 38 completes another successful conservation day!
- Meet two new partners in the conservation community!
- Deadline is January 31, 2011, to apply for free Plants for Pollinators resource kits.

2010 Mercer County Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Also posted at <http://mercerscd.org/education/contest.htm>



First Place Winners



7th – 9th Grade, First Place: Yanjie Qiu, Grover Middle School, Princeton Junction

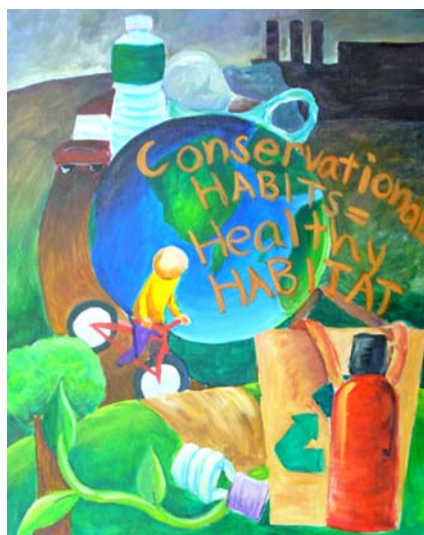


4th – 6th Grade, First Place: Sophia Cai, Princeton Charter School, Princeton



2nd – 3rd Grade, First Place: Bernabe Lugo, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

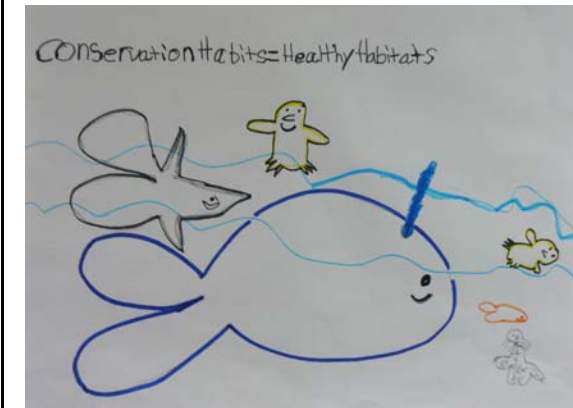
Second Place Winners



7th – 9th Grade, Second Place: Mimi Fang, West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South, Princeton Junction



4th – 6th Grade, Second Place: Michelle Ancil, Timberlane MS, Pennington



2nd – 3rd Grade, Second Place: Angel Chaj, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

The Conservation Poster Contest is sponsored by your local Soil Conservation District and the NJ Conservation Partnership which includes the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, the NJ Department of Agriculture - State Soil Conservation Committee, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension. The Partnership's mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment.

Hands Get Dirty and Shovels Fly as Cub Scout Pack 38 Completes Another Successful Conservation Day at the MCSCD and AEI!

A cool November morning turned out to be a beautiful day for fall clean-up in the wildlife and butterfly gardens at the Mercer County Soil Conservation District and Assunpink Environmental Institute.

Cub Scout Pack 38, chartered by Our Lady of Sorrows – St. Anthony Parish of Hamilton, joined us with their work gloves and friendly spirits to get the gardens ready for winter. They also freshened up the flag pole area and applied a new layer of wood chips to the trailside teaching pods created by Eagle Scout Andrew Palmer several years ago.



The scouts also participated in a scavenger hunt that had them dashing around the Arboretum Trail looking for clues about the trees and animals that share this habitat.

The MCSCD staff and supervisors would like to thank Cub Scout Pack 38 and recognize them for all of their hard work!



Top: Members of Cub Scout Pack 38 gather supplies prior to starting a scavenger hunt along the AEI Arboretum Trail.
Middle: Two Cub Scouts proudly demonstrate that they still have energy left after completing one of the many tasks of the day.
Bottom: Pack 38 poses together during a break between the morning and afternoon work sessions.

Thank You Cub Scout Pack 38!

Supervisors Priscilla Hayes, Chairperson Gary Mount, Vice Chairperson Edward J. DiPolvere, Treasurer Peggy McNeill, Member Scott Ellis, Member Sharif Branham NRCS District Conservationist	 Mercer County Soil Conservation District est. 1959	 Staff 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 Jillian Jaworski, Agricultural Resource Specialist Frank Wu, Agricultural Resource Specialist
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New to Cooperative Extension in Mercer County but not to Agriculture: Meredith Melendez will serve Mercer County's Agricultural Community.

I was extremely happy when I found out I was selected to serve the Mercer County agricultural community through Rutgers Cooperative Extension. I look forward to getting to know Mercer County's residents, farms and natural places. I have worked in several different areas of agriculture and love the opportunity to learn more about this vast field. My experiences lie in the nursery industry, urban agriculture, vegetable production, greenhouse production and agriculture education. For the past four years I have served as Horticulture Consultant to Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County where I served the public researching and answering landscape, yard and garden questions. As Senior Program Coordinator of Agriculture I will focus on bringing relevant science based information to the growers in the county.

Contact: Meredith Melendez, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension, Mercer County Phone: (609) 989-6830

Free Watershed Education Presentations from the new Watershed Ambassador

Hello! My name is Lindsey Fenner and I am the 2010-2011 AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for the Assiscunk, Crosswicks, and Doctors Watershed, also known as Watershed Management Area (WMA) 20. This area comprises 26 municipalities within Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean counties. My office is located in Hamilton Square at the Mercer County Soil Conservation District.

I am available to give **FREE presentations and demonstrations** involving point and nonpoint source pollution, watersheds, and many other water issues. I am adaptable to the needs of your organization or classroom, with customized lesson plans from the NJ DEP and NJ Division of Parks and Forestry. I can assure you that everyone will benefit from my services, making these presentations both fun and engaging. Feel free to contact me with questions or to schedule a presentation.

Keep your ears open for **FREE stream assessment trainings** in the Spring! Through this training, citizens can conduct visual assessments and collect macroinvertebrates that will provide those involved with a better understanding of water quality and the health of local streams and rivers. Plus it gives us an opportunity to get outside to learn more about the local waterways, plants and animals!

I look forward to working together to learn more about the health of our watersheds and what we can do to keep our waterways clean and healthy!

Contact:
Lindsey Fenner
Phone: (609) 586-9603
Email: AmbassadorWMA20@aol.com

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

**There's still time to apply for a
free Plants for Pollinators resource kit**

Your classroom could receive a two-tiered plant growing stand, butterfly-attracting plants, native pollinator teaching resources & much more!

Visit: <http://www.mercerscd.org/education/pollinators.htm>

The deadline is January 31, 2011. Don't miss out!