



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2006

FALL SPECIAL EDITION

Uncooperative Weather Doesn't Halt 5th Annual River Cleanup



SRCC President Ed Lippincott (far left) and Vice President Jim McNamara (far right) pose with some volunteers at the barbeque lunch donated by Oak Tree Lodge.

Ed Lippincott
President

With little cooperation from the weather on Saturday October 7th, over 40 volunteers helped in the rain to make the Shark River Cleanup Coalitions 5th Annual Fall River Cleanup a success. A windy and cool environment at Memorial Park Beach, Neptune City provided a scenic backdrop for inspiration to keep our watershed clean. SRCC's bi-annual river cleanups allow us as a community to assess the state of the watershed and instill a sense of ownership for our members and volunteers. Additionally, these river cleanups raise awareness to the public about the importance of keeping our watershed clean.

The Kayak cleanup was cancelled due to extremely windy and unsafe conditions. Everyone got together anyway for a BBQ lunch donated by Oak Tree Lodge and prepared by board member Jim McNamara. After lunch the cleanup teams fanned out into the watershed to clean areas that are better accessed at low tide. Bagged trash was deposited by the roadside and then collected later and placed in dumpsters provided by the municipalities.

One might think that after a few years of cleanups, the amount of trash collected would reduce, but unfortunately that is not the case. Year after year the amount of litter our watershed endures appears to remain constant. A few of the main things we have noticed over the years are floatable items like: plastic bottles, drink containers, Styrofoam and similar everyday trash hastily not thrown in the garbage receptacle. These everyday items make up the bulk of the litter. Many of these items make their way into the water indirectly by either floating downstream, being blown in by the wind or coming through storm drains. One of the smallest items collected that hold a large impact is cigarette butts. Cigarettes filter the toxins out of the tobacco which make them an especially noxious and toxic component impacting our watershed and environment. With the ban on indoor smoking, cigarette butts on the streets and sidewalks present more of a problem. Please encourage your local municipalities to make bars, restaurants and other facilities provide outside smoking areas with containers to dispose of cigarette butts. The three most interesting and troubling items collected this year were a five gallon bucket of used motor oil and two five gallon buckets of hydraulic fluid. All three containers were collected and disposed of properly.

Regardless of whether there is more litter or less litter, you can count on the SRCC to put our boots on and get out there twice a year and pick up the litter that threatens the beautiful Shark River and its tributaries. We look forward to seeing you at our next cleanup in the spring!



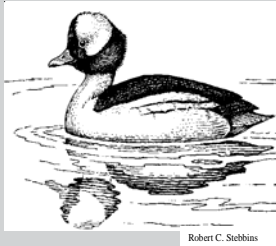
Taking time out of their Saturday afternoon, volunteers eat lunch at Memorial Beach Park, Neptune City, before hitting up the shore of the Shark River to collect litter and help beautify the watershed before winter comes to town.

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Kirsty's Critter Corner

THE BUFFLEHEAD

During the winter, several migratory bird species seek the protective cover of the Shark River Bay and the surrounding wetlands, including the bufflehead. The bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) is the smallest diving duck in North America, typically breeding in Canada and wintering in much of the United States. The bufflehead is only 13 inches in length and has a wingspan of 21 inches. Adult males from October to May, have a black back, white body, glossy dark purple-green head with a large white patch covering the entire back of the head. Females are mostly gray with dark brown back and head and a distinct oval white patch on head. Unlike most ducks, the bufflehead is mostly monogamous, often remaining with the same mate for several years. These ducks, fly fast and usually close to the water but make no whistling sound in flight. While a flock is diving for food there is almost always at least one bird on the surface watching for danger.



Robert C. Stebbins

-Kirsty Cronin

Golf Tournament

SRCC hosted their first ever golf tournament fundraiser, "The Shark River Classic" on Monday, July 24, 2006 at Bella Vista Country Club, Marlboro, N.J. After spending the day on the greens, golfers then proceeded to The Shark River Beach & Yacht Club, Shark River, N.J. for the awards dinner reception.

Players participated in a Calloway system match. The following players placed in the tournament.

Gross
1st-Tom O'Leary
2nd-Jim Ward
3rd-Ken Gerard

Net
1st-Will Kroll
2nd-Gary O'Dello
3rd-Howard Dombroski

May local businesses supported the event through tee sponsorships and gifts for the auction. Overall, a good time was had by those who participated in the event. Players received gift bags, lunch, greens fees, carts, dinner, and the opportunity to join with friends on a Monday for a beautiful summer day on the course and a splendid evening on the beloved Shark River. Please anticipate next summer's golf tournament and call (732) 681-0059, with any questions. -Courtney Atkins

News from the legal arena...

On June 13, 2006, the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court denied Chelsea Property Group ("Chelsea")'s motion to dismiss the Shark River Cleanup Coalition ("SRCC")'s appeal of the May 1, 2006 Order of the Judge Janie S. Perri, in Superior Court in Freehold dismissing SRCC's lawsuit against Chelsea for violations of the New Jersey Environmental Rights Act ("ERA"). Chelsea is a \$43 billion international developer of outlet malls which seeks to build a mall on Route 66 in Tinton Falls. Chelsea plans on developing within the 300 foot buffer of an upstream freshwater tributary of Shark River which is protected under Category 1 status. Then on June 17, 2006, Judge Perri denied Chelsea's motion to have SRCC's lawsuit declared frivolous and impose monetary sanctions on SRCC and its attorney. Chelsea did not appeal Judge Perri's denial.

The Appellate Division's action paves the way to the second round in this ongoing legal battle. The basic argument is that Chelsea deliberately revised its approved site plan for the Mall because it failed to get timely permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). In doing so, Chelsea violated the Tinton Falls Stormwater Ordinance ("Ordinance") which requires "amended, revised or expired approvals" to return to the Tinton Falls Planning Board and comply with the entire Ordinance, including the 300 foot buffer. Chelsea argued that it had not revised its "approval" and therefore should still be grandfathered under the Ordinance. SRCC responded that under New Jersey Land Use Law there is no such thing as a "revised approval" and that a "revised site plan" after approval is what was intended by the Ordinance. The law requires environmental ordinances to be given broad and liberal interpretation. In dismissing SRCC's lawsuit Judge Perri did not address this issue. SRCC is confident that when it is more closely examined by the Appellate Division, it will prevail. Briefs will be completed by year end. Oral argument will follow and a decision should be made by Summer of 2007.

On a side note, Judge Perri did accept the idea that SRCC, and any other person or entity, has the right to file a lawsuit under the ERA to enforce a local environmental ordinance. This is the first time in New Jersey this has been done. It is a huge development for watershed protection because the regulatory structure delegates much of watershed protection to local municipalities and their ordinances. In the event a municipal government fails to enforce their own ordinances concerned citizens have that right. If you see a possible violation of any environmental law or ordinance in the Shark River Watershed, please let us know. -John P. Brennan Jr., Esquire



PHOTO BY NANCY SMITH

Interesting Water Fact

The average single-family home uses 80 gallons of water per person each day in the winter and 120 gallons in the summer.

Showering, bathing and using the toilet account for about two-thirds of the average family's water usage.

2006 Board of Directors

Ed Lippincott, President
James McNamara, VP
Jeffrey Hoffman, Treasurer
Bill Sciarappa, Ph.D.
John Brennan, Esq.
Kirsty Cronin

(732) 681-0059

SRCC: Providing Hope for Shark River

Since 2001 Shark River Cleanup Coalition has led the struggle to preserve and protect the Shark River Watershed for its clean drinking water and its recreational and commercial uses.

In our short history SRCC has had enormous accomplishments including:

-Organizing bi-annual river cleanups that remove over 150,000 pounds of trash from the shores of Shark River Bay every year.

-Prevented Wal-Mart from opening a new store in Neptune until they removed construction sediment from the river.

-Presented an educational Powerpoint presentation to local schools to foster an appreciation for this valuable resource.

-Organized watershed tours, nature walks and kayak trips for local citizens and government leaders.

-Lobbied in Trenton and received Category One (C1) protection for the Shark River and its freshwater tributaries, the highest protection a waterbody can receive.

-NJDEP Certified water testing program. The first in the State of New Jersey.

In the upcoming year here are some of the projects we will be working on:

Support the Dredging of the Shark River

Continued opposition to the Outlet Mall

Reintroducing Kayak Trips and Nature Tours

Updating Powerpoint presentation for local schools

Implementing of a Watershed Management Plan

Overseeing the redevelopments in both Belmar and Neptune

***Interested in joining
SRCC's Board of
Directors?
Call (732) 681-0059***

Dear Friends of the Shark River:

As the winter approaches we here at the Shark River Cleanup Coalition are already getting prepared for 2007 and the work we have ahead of us to protect the Shark River Watershed. Once a month our board of directors meet and talk about how we can best serve our members and the people who support us in our work. In order to do this we must have your help. SRCC has always been an aggressive advocate for clean water and that isn't going to change. We research the facts, do water testing, request public records. We bring this information to the government agencies responsible and if they don't take immediate action we go to the courts. We also conduct river cleanups, kayak and nature tours, as well as participate in and hold events to educate the public about the importance of maintaining our watershed.

To accomplish our goals we rely on the generous contributions and membership dues from people who care as much about the quality of the river as we do. **SRCC is a volunteer organization so all of your money goes to support our programs, and as a 501(c) 3 not for profit corporation your contributions are tax-deductible.**

Please take a minute and fill out the membership application enclosed and send it in with your tax-deductible contribution. Or, if you are already a member, please encourage a neighbor or a friend who lives near Shark River to join in on this great cause.

100% of your money goes to the fulfillment of our mission.

**Happy Holidays,
Ed Lippincott
President**

**Renew your Membership
Become a Member
Shark River Cleanup Coalition**

Mail this form back to:

SRCC
PO Box 2241
Neptune City, NJ 07754

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Zip _____ State _____
Phone _____
Email _____

___ \$25 Annual Junior/Senior Membership
___ \$52 Annual Individual Membership
___ \$120 Annual Family Membership
___ \$365 Annual Sponsoring Family Membership
___ \$250 Business Donor Annual
___ \$500 Business Annual Sponsor (free ad on our website)
___ Other amount

Members receive our newsletter and help keep our watershed safe through their support.

New Jersey Charity registration Number CH 2165700

(732) 681.0059
www.sharkriver.org

How did the Shark River get its Name?

Originally called the Nolletqueset River by the Lenni Lenape Indians, the name Shirk River appears on a 1764 indenture for an adjacent land sale. It's said the name refers to the laziness of certain settlers or soldiers who shirked their duties to enjoy the beauty and recreation of the river. The name Shack River is listed on a 1781 map, probably for the many fishing and hunting shanties that lined the shores. Another map of the same time refers to the river as Hogs Pond. By the early 1800's, the crescent-shaped waterway was referred to as Shark River Pond. While it may very well be a derivation of the names "Shirk" or "Shack" River, the evolution of the name is fancifully bantered about in different folk myths. It's said in the mid 1800's, a large shark was swept up river and perished. The locals pulled the creature up on the beach and immortalized it by renaming the river. Others say it is named for the many fossil shark teeth that can still be found along its banks.

The locals pulled the creature up on the beach and immortalized it by renaming the river.

-Kirsty Cronin

Article from "Historic/Scenic Shark River Tour a self-guided route for biking, driving, walking (approx. 11 miles)" 2000. Shark River Environmental Roundtable. BEC, PO Box A, Belmar, NJ 07719

What is non-point source pollution?

By Ed Lippincott
President

Non-point source pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water. Imagine the path taken by a drop of rain from the time it hits the ground to when it reaches a river, ground water, or the ocean. Any pollutant it picks up on its journey can become part of the problem. NPS pollution also includes adverse changes to the vegetation, shape, and flow of streams and other aquatic systems.

The United States has made tremendous advances in the past 25 years to clean up the aquatic environment but we did not do enough to control pollution from diffuse, or non-point sources. Today, NPS pollution remains the Nation's largest source of water quality problems. It's the main reason that approximately 40 percent of our surveyed rivers, lakes, and estuaries are not clean enough to meet basic uses such as fishing or swimming.

NPS pollution is widespread because it can occur any time activities disturb the land or water. Agriculture, forestry, grazing, septic systems, recreational boating, urban runoff, construction, physical changes to stream channels, and habitat degradation are potential sources of NPS pollution. Careless or uninformed household management also contributes to NPS pollution problems.

Go to this website to learn more about non-point source pollution.
<http://www.protectingwater.com/>



Shark River Cleanup Coalition Inc.
P.O. Box 2241
Neptune City, N.J. 07754
(732) 681-0059

This is your complimentary issue of the SRCC's newsletter River Views. Please take the time to read how YOU can make our community's watershed a cleaner, safer place for our families and natural habitat. Be a Friend... to the Place you call Home!

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