

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- DREDGING THE RIVER:

PETITION ENCLOSED

- RIVER CLEANUP OCTOBER 11
- LEGAL UPDATE ON NEPTUNE HIGH SCHOOL LAWSUIT
- WRECK POND: ACTION NEEDED
- KEY CRITTERS: CRABS AND TERNS

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RIVER VIEWS

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On Dredging the Shark River:

From The Desk of Ed Lippincott

Throughout this summer I got to meet many of our members and many other people concerned about the state of the Shark River. Wherever I go, everyone keeps asking me the same question: "When are they going to dredge the River?"

First of all, let's understand **WHY** we need to dredge. **Due to over-development, our coastal wetlands are diminishing.** Coastal wetlands act as a natural filter for various natural and human-made contaminants, protecting the overall estuarine system. Coastal wetlands also help control excessive runoff to the bays and erosion of lands, protecting people and property from storms, floods, and erosions by serving as a buffer between land and water. The wetlands also provide important nutrients for the bay ecosystem, as well as essential habitat for many species of waterfowl, reptiles, mammals, fish, and other wildlife. **Without adequate coastal wetlands protection, the silt ends up in the bay, and the level of this gooey sediment is rising.**



YOU should plan on participating in the SRCC fall clean-up on October 11. This annual event begins at 9:00 am with an organizational meeting for sign-up and instructions at Memorial Park in Neptune City on Riverview Avenue. The morning session is for shoreline work during the low tide. The kayak work on the water begins at 1:00 during the higher tide. Both clean-up crews share a free BBQ luncheon at 12 noon in the park. SRCC sponsor Blue

When this sediment rises, it smothers aquatic life on the bay floor and reduces the amount of water in the bay. With less water, the bay has more extreme temperatures and can lose oxygen rapidly, leading to fish kills, algae blooms, weeds, and other harmful environmental impacts.



A DOWNED PLANE WAS SUBMERGED FOR TWO DAYS IN SILT DEEP ENOUGH TO HIDE THE FUSELAGE FROM RESCUERS.

(photo courtesy of AP Press)

Additionally, the silt is a bane to boaters, who can no longer navigate the shallow channels.



Now let's determine **WHO** the "they" is.

The main channel leading to the ocean is the responsibility of the federal government. The marinas are the responsibilities of the individual owners, whether they be the municipalities of Belmar and Neptune or a private marina like Main One in Avon.

The main channels in the Shark River Bay, however, are the responsibility of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The NJDOT knows the channels need to be dredged and have wanted to do it for a number of years; to do so, they need to get permits from the Department of Environmental Protection.

WHEN becomes a more difficult question. According to the NJDEP permit regulations, in order to de-water the quantity of material involved, a site of at least 10 acres is needed. The dredge must then be de-watered for a period of 3-5 months before it can be placed on trucks and hauled away for beneficial re-use. (cont.p.3)



By Bill Sciarappa

FALL RIVER CLEANUP DAY

SET FOR OCTOBER 11

Mountain Spring Water in Manchester has agreed to provide filtered spring water and allow the volunteers to fill reusable bottles in an effort to stop using disposable plastic bottles. Supply King Distributors also donates as well.

Besides helping remove literally tons of litter from our threatened waterways, **you** help create community awareness of our group's mission and foster a positive impression for the value of our natural resources. The networking and

community bonding that develops during these mundane tasks transcend the actual chores and keeps our environmental issues in the forefront of the minds of municipal officials, decision-makers and the media. Help us lead the way by example with your active participation. So please put a star on your calendar and bring your friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy a great day at the bay while doing something seriously good for our local environment!

SRCC IN ACTION

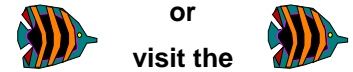


For more information



call

732-681-0059



or



visit the

Coalition

web site



www.

sharkriver.org



It was a great year for the Shark River Cleanup Coalition and we hope it's been a good one for you too.

Some highlights this year were a spectacular Riverfest in April, our spring cleanup in May, the Horseshoe Crab count in May and June, the Beach Nesting Bird Program in June, July and August, as well as our many education and outreach efforts.

We are always working to educate people about clean water issues and our mission to protect Shark River at events like Neptune City Day, Marina Day, Volunteer Day, and the Clear-water Festival.

We also actively advocate at local council meetings and planning boards on behalf of the Shark River.

The mission of the Shark River Cleanup Coalition is to significantly enhance the water quality of the Shark River Estuary and its fresh water tributaries, to improve and protect habitats important to the conservation and abundance of the wildlife, to protect the recreational and commercial uses from degradation and pollution thereby ensuring the ecology and economic stability of this important Watershed.



SRCC Executive Director Ed Lippincott with volunteers at the May River Cleanup

“SRCC takes its responsibility to protect the Watershed very seriously and runoff is the chief cause of continued pollution and sedimentation of the Shark River. SRCC is preparing suit for additional violations in the area, so keep tuned-in. You are our eyes and ears. If you see anything you believe may be a violation of any environmental law, regulation or ordinance, please contact us immediately.”

John Brennan, Esq.
SRCC Board

THE LEGAL FRONT

Shark River Clean-up Coalition (“SRCC”) has some terrific news. Through persistence and perseverance, the SRCC has won a settlement in a long running lawsuit arising out of Discharge Permit violations at the Neptune High School expansion project. In a federal court complaint filed in Decem-

ber 2004, SRCC alleged that the construction contractors violated their Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan by poor construction management practices, allowing a vast quantity of soils to runoff into Lake Alberta, Musquash Cove and the Shark River tributary. The SRCC initially reported the violations to the authorities. The DEP and the Freehold Soil Conservation District responded and

required abatement. SRCC filed the suit against 6 defendants to further deter such conduct in the future. The matter concluded in May 2008 with the payment by the defendants of substantial damages. Congratulations and thanks goes to John Hopkins, our attorney and Tim Fitzpatrick, our engineer, who handled the case.

WRECK POND A WRECK!

Dredging is a critical issue not only in Shark River, but county and statewide. Our local lakes used to be beautiful and clean before they met up with the last several decades of suburban development and environmental ignorance. In addition to sedimentation, soil particles transport non point source pollutants as bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorus throughout our treasured waters. Possibly the worst example is seen at Wreck Pond – a watershed region bounded by the towns

of Sea Girt, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights, and Wall Township. Long time residents who recollect when the lake was over ten feet deep in the center now report that it is barely two feet deep. Much like a shallow petri dish, the lake heats up quickly, brewing potent batches of bacteria and foul smelling algae. Discharge of this lake overflow into the Atlantic Ocean has led to one of the highest rates of beach closures in the US, alarming residents and tourists alike. Resident do not want a repeat of the factors that led to a flood just a few years ago. DEP and local parties are now trying to remediate this

problem before these shore towns are flooded once again. A two-pronged solution is needed: clean up the run off problem first, and then increase the depth and flow of these waterbodies by dredging. Here too, Wall Township needs to think and act regionally.



“Just like Shark River, we need to dredge Wreck Pond now, before these shore towns are blown into the ocean in the next perfect storm or the polluted waters scare away the vacationers.”

Jeff Hoffman, SRCC Board

SRCC Booth at the Clear-water Festival in Asbury Park on August 23



Dredging: From the desk of(continued from page 1)



Neptune Township has already agreed to take the dredge material to their existing Landfill site near Seaview Square Mall. The estimated timeline to dredge the remaining channels in Shark River Bay is three years.

SRCC TOURS TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS ON DREDGING THE RIVER

A stickier question is **WHERE?** Put the dredged material on barges? Not an option. Ocean dumping is prohibited, and delivering it to Elizabeth for reuse would be too costly. Put it at an upland dewatering site? Not feasible. Although some sites are available, they are too small, have too much of a slope, or are forested. Build a new island? Not allowed. Place the material behind new bulkheading? Only a temporary solution.

There is only one suitable site that is not forested and is of adequate size:

the Camp Evans Area of Wall Township. Camp Evans is ideal; there are no residents nearby, and the salt water will flow back into the river where it came from.

But Wall Township refuses to accept the material.

Here is a quote from the Wall Township Committeewoman Mary Byrne from Sept 12, 2007.

*"All the communities involved support the dredging but they have to find out where they will be placing their dredge. It is their problem, not Wall Township's. **This Township Committee is not allowing it to go on Wall Township property.**"*

We must continue to advocate locally at council meetings and planning boards to make sure local governments are doing their part to keep the water clean, now and in the future. We can't do it without you!

See you on the water!



Executive Director

They think it's not their problem? Let's make it their problem!

Join our CALL TO ACTION!!!!

We are mounting an organized campaign to tell the Wall Township Committee

"We want the river dredged now!!"

Please log onto our website at www.sharkriver.org and sign our online petition.

Or make copies of the enclosed petition and send to the SRCC mailbox when signed.

*"Words without action are doomed for failure. We as a community of concerned environmentalists must make this happen. Copy the enclosed petition and get signatures from any resident you can in Wall or any surrounding towns. **We must not fail!!"***

*Jim McNamara
SRCC President*

HORSESHOE CRAB COUNT



This spring the SRCC had our annual Horseshoe Crab Count throughout the Shark River Estuary. The volunteer turnout was extraordinary and we were able to survey each of the 7 spawning beaches in the bay on each of the 12 nights of the survey. (Except for the night it

was lightning!). This year we added a tagging program with help from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS has been tagging crabs since 1998 and they supplied us with the tags and instructions and we had four volunteers trained at Sandy Hook. We successfully tagged four

hundred crabs and educated many people who showed up just to watch. All the tagging data was compiled in a spreadsheet program and sent to the scientists in Maryland. Signs have been placed throughout the bay.

If you see a tagged crab call 1-888-LIMULUS (546-8587) and report the tag number to receive your reward.

The Least Tern

Through most of the 19th Century, the least tern was a common breeder along the New Jersey coast. However in recent decades populations have begun declining due primarily to predation and increased coastal flooding. In February 2008 the Belmar Environmental Commission, Wreck Pond Watershed Assn., and Shark River Cleanup Coalition trained volunteers about beach nesting birds in

Monmouth County and Belmar Dept of Public Works installed a snow fence along the inlet jetty and removing two standing poles located near the site.

In Early April, volunteers from NJ Conserve Wildlife installed fencing and signs to alert people to the presence of beach nesting birds. Least Terns begin arriving in May and start courting and nesting. This year's

colony in Belmar had over 350 birds and fledged over 200 chicks, which makes it a huge success and the most productive site in the state.



The Least Tern is the smallest of the North American terns (about 9 in. in length), a black-capped tern with white under parts and gray upper body, wings and forked tail. The Least Tern is distinguished by its sulfur yellow bill which is tipped black.



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Shark River Cleanup Coalition Membership Application

The SRCC is a nonprofit 501(c3) corporation. All contributions are tax deductible as allowable by law.

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