



WATER IS EVERYWHERE?

by Jaclyn Rhoads and Rich Bizub

Water is everywhere. Living in New Jersey, you can go to the shore and see a vast ocean of water. Unfortunately, this water is not drinkable. Salt water has to go through an extensive and expensive process called desalination before people and almost any plant can consume it. Instead, almost all of South Jersey goes to our fresh water aquifer beneath the ground for water. Normally, an individual may not even think about where they are going to get water, because they have access to a public water supply or they have a water supply in their own yard. If a well dries up, we just dig another well.

In South Jersey, concerns about water supply and water quality continue to rise. Headlines are reporting contamination of wells from unknown sources. Water levels in many wells are declining on a yearly basis. A number of these problems stem from homeowners not understanding how their actions affect the natural water cycle.

Imagine this scenario: You apply a generous amount of fertilizer on your lawn and then spray weed killer. Shortly thereafter, rain starts pouring down on your lawn. All the fertilizer and weed killer you applied is now washing off your lawn into a nearby waterway. What are the effects on the aquatic ecosystem? What about nearby wildlife? What if this waterway provides a source of drinking water?

This scenario is taking place every day. Lawn irrigation is estimated to account for at least 15% - 30% of the summer water consumption by homeowners. Towns in New Jersey are time and again applying for additional water strictly for irrigation.

Here are some statistics on New Jersey water quality and supply (according to state reports):

- Most of the 2,237 public wells and all 64 surface water sources serving homes in New Jersey are highly vulnerable to at least one kind of contaminant.
- NJDEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) has identified approximately 12,000 known contaminated sites, of which 60% involve groundwater contamination.
- An estimated 1.1 million people rely on groundwater from private domestic wells.
- There is a direct connection between groundwater and

Informational Session

Protecting Water Quality and Supply

Learn what you can do to protect this valuable natural resource.

September 26, 2005

6:00 ~ 8:00 PM

Evesham Municipal Building



For additional information contact
Jaclyn Rhoads or Rich Bizub
at 609-859-8860.

surface water.

According to the NJDEP's Draft Status of the Water Supply of Southeastern New Jersey created in September 2003, "water concerns facing this region are not new." Concerns that have existed since 1982 include: 1) saltwater intrusion, 2) groundwater contamination of the water table aquifer, and 3) reductions in streams flow as a result of pumpage from the Kirkwood-Cohansey water table aquifer. To summarize this problem, NJDEP states that land use and water supply decisions made in one part of the region can affect the water resources of another part of the region, because they are connected through the aquifer system. The question that needs to be asked is, if these concerns have existed since 1982, why have we not done more to address these concerns?

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Water conservation and better landscaping practices are necessary to preserve water supply and water quality. PPA developed a model ordinance for towns to implement landscaping practices that reduce the amount of lawns, use native plants, and require moisture sensors on lawn sprinklers. PPA will also be giving presentations to towns throughout the Pinelands about water quality and supply issues and solutions to these problems as suggested in our model ordinance.

The first two presentations will be given in Evesham Township on Monday, September 26th at the Evesham Municipal Building at 6 PM and Monroe Township, sometime in late September or October. Additional presentations will be set up throughout the Fall. The schedules will be placed on PPA's website www.pinelandsalliance.org or contact Rich Bizub or Jaclyn Rhoads at 609-859-8860.

If you cannot attend a meeting, here are some steps you can take to protect water quality and supply:

1. Express your concerns to your local environmental commission or town council, and/or ask them to adopt an ordinance that helps to protect water resources.

2. Be mindful of your actions by using less fertilizer, pesticides, and water! PPA provides guidelines on lawn care in our Oct/Nov 2004 Pinelands Watch. Contact Jaclyn Rhoads or Theresa Lettman for a copy. It is also available on our website at www.pinelandsalliance.org under "Pinelands Watch."

3. Educate your family and friends.

4. Contact the press. Write a letter to the editor about these issues.

5. If you would like a special session for your homeowners association, local commissions or town, please contact Rich Bizub or Jaclyn Rhoads at 609-859-8860 ext. 16 or 18.

Pinelands Commission Meeting

on Southern Medford/Evesham Sub-Regional Natural Resource Protection Plan

Wednesday, October 5, 2005
7:00 PM

Evesham Township Building
984 Tuckerton Road
Marlton, NJ 08053

Here is an opportunity to express your concerns to the towns of Evesham and Medford and the Pinelands Commission about water quality and supply issues.



RESOURCES RESOURCES RESOURCES



GARDEN STATE ENVIRONET

www.gsenet.org

ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS

www.anjec.org

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION

www.cleanwateraction.org/njef

SAVE BARNEGAT BAY

www.savebarnegatbay.org

ALLIANCE FOR LIVING OCEAN

www.livingocean.org

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.njaudubon.org

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

www.njconservation.org

SIERRA CLUB, NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

www.sierraactivist.org

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

www.nature.org/newjersey

THE FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN COALITION

www.frmc.org

NJ PINELANDS COMMISSION

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/

What is this? Why me?

PINELANDS WATCH is a publication created by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Its purpose is to encourage those who are concerned about conservation issues in the Pinelands to get involved and make a difference.

Those who want to thwart the goals of the Pinelands Protection Act rely on public ignorance and apathy. But the Pinelands has survived and will continue to survive because people like you stay informed and active.

Pinelands Watch provides a summary of the most serious current issues in the Pinelands. Each edition focuses on one of these issues and provides references for getting more information. And it suggests options for taking action.

You probably know a lot of people who love the Pinelands and want it preserved. Share this publication with them, and call or e-mail us so we can send it to them in the future.

Most importantly, call us if you are not currently on the Pinelands Watch mailing list and asked to have your name added.

Victory for New Jersey Fast Track Delayed Once Again!



Acting Governor Richard Codey issued an Executive Order on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 halting the implementation of the Fast Track Permit Law. Save New Jersey Coalition, the coalition of 50 plus environmental groups in New Jersey, has been pressing Acting Governor Codey, who is also the Senate Majority Leader, to place the Fast Track Repeal Bill on the Senate agenda for voting and, until that happens, to

place a hold on the implementation of the Fast Track Law. We were successful!

The Executive Order has delayed the implementation of Fast Track indefinitely or until two conditions are met:

- 1) the federal government and the DEP reach an agreement concerning the impact of DEP's proposed rules which the state administers on federal environmental programs, and
- 2) DEP, DOT, and DCA must develop rules, have them approved and reviewed before publication.

Governor McGreevey's Executive Order originally halting the implementation of Fast Track until July 2005 was an indication of the problems with the Law. Acting Governor Codey's halting of Fast Track clearly indicates once again that it needs to be repealed.

The Save NJ Coalition is still working towards repeal. A list of supporting Assembly persons and Senators can be found at www.savenj.net. If your representative is not on the list, contact them to find out where they stand on the issue and ask them to support S2157/A3650.

**Please contact Jaclyn Rhoads at
609-859-8860 ext. 18
or jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org
for additional information or questions.**

Thank you for all your help!

PINELANDS COMMISSION 2005 MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, September 9, 2005 (9:30 a.m.)
Friday, October 14, 2005 (9:30 a.m.)
Thursday, November 10, 2005 (7:00 p.m.)
Friday, December 9, 2005 (9:30 a.m.)

Pinelands Commission Meetings are open to the public. For meeting location call the Commission at 609-894-7300.