

In Your Backyard

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“Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.”

~Daniel Joseph Boorstin

Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Course Follow-up

On November 2 & 3, 2005, the Gloucester County Soil Conservation District in partnership with Rowan University, and NJ Department of Agriculture– State Soil Conservation Committee held a two day Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Course for Contractors, located at the Gloucester County Complex. This well attended course included ten course instructors discussing various topics, including: Vegetative Stabilization Standards, Soil Erosion for Contractors, Low Impact Development, Overview of the Law, Grass Waterways and Channel Construction, Tree Care during Construction and NJDEP Stormwater and Best Management Practices. Part of the workshop included a site visit to an active construction site located in Monroe Township, Gloucester County. This site visit included a demonstration of proper hydro seeding techniques and installation of required soil erosion and sediment control measures.

Course attendees received the current Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards for New Jersey, a EPA issued Poster with detailed information regarding Stormwater Control on Construction Sites, as well as other resources and handouts.

The purpose of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Course was to educate and inform contractors, developers, and builders on the proper Soil Erosion and sediment control techniques and measures.

Special thanks to Rowan University for organizing the workshop, and to Richmond American Homes for allowing the use of their Willowoods Residential Subdivision for the demonstration and field tour.



2005 District Photo Contest Winners

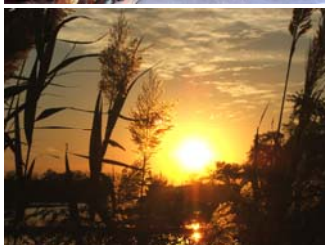


Congratulations to all those who submitted photo entries in the Districts 2005 Photo Contest. Each winner received a gift certificate to Triple Oaks Nursery in Franklinville.

Below are the 2005 Winners:

- 1st Place– Mary Sorbello, Mullica Hill. “Bountiful Harvest of Gloucester Co.” (shown left)
- 2nd Place– Denise Mabilog, Swedesboro. “Autumn Leaves”
- 3rd Place– Reggie Hall, Logan Township. “Sunset Near A Farm Area” (shown left)

A Big THANK YOU To Everyone Who Submitted Photo's In The District Photo Contest!



2006 Envirothon

The 2006 New Jersey Envirothon will be held on May 13th at the Quail Hill Scout Reservation in Manalapan, NJ. The theme for this year's event is: "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate."

The Envirothon is a national environmental competition that challenges 9-12 graders in different natural resource-related topics, including aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils, and a current environmental issue.

If you are interested in participating in the 2006 Envirothon, please contact the District's Education Coordinator at (856) 589-5250 or christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org.

Montclair State University and Richard Stockton College have offered the first place team members Scholarships to attend their institutions.

For more information, visit the NJ Envirothon website at: <http://nj.nacdnet.org/envirothon/>



2006 Water Wise Poster and Bumper Sticker Contest



It's that time of year again for the NJ Conservation Poster and Bumper Sticker Contest! Students can discover the importance of clean water, and why water is a vital precious resource through the contests theme: "Water Wise".

Gloucester Soil Conservation District sponsors this event because it supports the District's mission of conservation education. The District awards winning school students with U.S. Savings Bonds based on their winning entries.

The competition is open to all students in Gloucester County in grades 2-12. If you would like to participate in the contest, please contact the Education Coordinator at (856) 589-5250. Contest deadline is March 20, 2006.



2005 State-Level winning entry by Pengpeng Song of Edison, NJ.

FREE TREES FOR ARBOR DAY!

IS YOUR SCHOOL LOOKING FOR A TREE TO PLANT IN CELEBRATION OF ARBOR DAY?

This year, Arbor day will be celebrated on Friday, April 28, 2006. The Gloucester Soil Conservation District is offering free native trees (*Black Birch and Basswood, approx. 5-6 feet high) to interested schools. Only one per school, please. We have a limited quantity of trees that will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are interested in receiving a free tree, please contact the Education Coordinator at (856) 589-5250 or by email: christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org. *Trees were generously donated by Pinelands Nursery, Columbus, NJ.

If you would like a free Tree/Arbor Day Presentation, please contact the Education Coordinator to set up an appointment.

***For Third Grade Classes:** Free tree seedlings will be given to each student when a Third Grade teacher signs up for a Tree presentation. *Sponsored by the FREC Third Grade Tree Team Program

Gloucester Soil Conservation District is pleased to offer free conservation and environmental education presentations to schools, youth organizations, and community groups on a limited basis.

If you are interested in a presentation, please contact the Education Coordinator

at: (856) 589-5250 or by email:

christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org

Punch Line

A little girl was in her garden filling in a big hole when her neighbor looked over the fence. Curious, he politely asked, "Hi! What are you up to?" "My goldfish died," replied the girl tearfully, "and I've just buried him."

The neighbor was amazed. "Isn't that an awfully big hole for a goldfish?" The little girl tamped down the soil and replied, "Yes, but that's because he's inside your stupid cat."



WILD School Sites Workshop Was a Successful Event!

On October 21, 2005, the Gloucester Soil Conservation District, in Partnership with NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Scotland Run Park Nature Center, Gloucester County Parks and Recreation, held a WILD School Sites Workshop at Scotland Run Park Nature Center in Clayton, NJ.

There were 19 people in attendance ranging from school teachers, and private citizens from South Jersey. Jill Taylor, Park Naturalist from Scotland Run Park was the workshop facilitator, while three guest speakers added valuable information and resources to the workshop.

Guest speakers included: Mona Peterson, USDA-NRCS Woodstown office, Lorraine Kiefer, Triple Oaks Nursery in Franklinville, and Sharon Oakes from Wild Birds Unlimited in Washington Township. Each participant received grant information, a refurbished bird feeder, bird seed and a native plant along with a book and helpful resources.

The purpose of the workshop was to encourage teachers, schools and environmental centers to utilize the outdoors as an educational tool through establishing wildlife habitat sites on school campuses. The Education Coordinator from the Gloucester Soil Conservation District coordinated the event.



Mona Peterson, NRCS Woodstown, explains the importance of soil testing.

Spring Seeding and Soil Stabilization on Construction Sites

Spring seeding season is once again upon us. The start of the optimum spring seeding season in Gloucester County starts February 1st and continues through April 30th. Now is the time to start site preparation for seeding and vegetative stabilization throughout your construction project. It is essential at this time of the year to inspect and prepare areas for seeding work. Especially important are critical areas such as newly constructed storm water facilities, drainage swales, wetland disturbances, embankments, slopes, road shoulders and open areas. Any previously seeded areas showing poor stabilization should be re-seeded at this time to take advantage of the favorable growing conditions. It is important to understand that the *NJ Standards* **require** that soils disturbed or exposed for sixty (60) days or longer, not subject to construction traffic, must be temporarily or permanently stabilized.

Vegetative stabilization of soils benefits both the environment and your construction operation in several ways including:

- Controlling onsite and offsite erosion during construction
- Reduction of offsite sedimentation into wetlands, waterways and other ecologically sensitive areas
- Control of dust and soil blowing
- Reducing valuable topsoil loss from the construction site
- Prevention of costly sediment removal from the storm drainage system at the completion of the project
- Achieving compliance with your local Soil Conservation District and other government agencies

In order to establish vegetation throughout your site, a good quality certified seed mixture must be used to assure a premium stand of turf grass or vegetative stand. All seed mixes should be adapted to your particular soil type and site conditions. This includes both permanent and temporary seed mixes. Please be aware that the use of "Annual Rye Grass" is no longer permitted for use in any seed mixture.

Always refer to your approved *Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan* or the *NJ Standards* for additional seed mixtures that may be suited to your project.

In addition to quality seed, soil and seedbed preparation is **equally** important in establishing vegetation. The following must also be addressed when preparing to establish vegetative stabilization:

- Topsoil application
- Soil aeration to reduce compaction
- Fertilizer application
- Lime application
- Mulch application
- Mulch anchoring

Regardless of the method of seeding, all seeding must be mulched. When hydro seeding, this method must be performed in a two-step process. The seed must be incorporated into the soil first with the hydro-mulch being applied in a second and separate application.

It is also requested you keep records of the seed mixture, lime and fertilizer types and application rates. The District will be periodically requesting confirmation of these important soil amendments, especially when conducting inspections for reports of compliance.

Always feel free to contact the Gloucester County Soil Conservation District should there be any questions in regards to vegetative stabilization or seeding methods. The District will be glad to provide any technical assistance needed to help you successfully complete your project while achieving compliance with the Law.

Submitted by Rich Eigenbrood, Natural Resource Specialist
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Do You Know Where Stormwater Goes?

When it rains, stormwater that flows into a storm drain goes into a sewer that transports it directly to a wastewater treatment plant to be properly treated, Right?

WRONG!!

Almost all of the stormdrains in Gloucester County connect to a local waterway. Stormwater that enters a storm drain does not get treated, but flows directly into the closest waterway. When it rains, storm water runs across the land collecting excess fertilizer, oil from the road, animal waste, and trash, then flows into the nearest storm drain. Storm water that enters a storm drain is then directed to the nearest waterway. All the litter, motor oil, and other debris goes into the local waterway. This type of pollution is referred to as nonpoint source pollution, which is pollution that does not have one direct source.

Nonpoint source pollution, or "people pollution" is the largest cause of water pollution in New Jersey. Due to nonpoint source pollution, some of the local waterways are not swimmable, fishable, or drinkable.



How can we reduce this problem?

Daily conservation practices can make a significant difference in Gloucester County's water resources.

Here are some easy steps you can take to reduce water pollution:

- Fertilizing your lawn is important, but over fertilizing contributes to water pollution. A lawn only needs to be fertilized twice a year to maintain proper growth. Remember, when it comes to fertilizing- more isn't better.
- Many of the waterways in New Jersey have high levels of fecal coliform partially due to animal waste. Remember to pick up your pet waste and dispose of it properly.

- Do not litter, and when you see litter, please pick it up and dispose in a trash receptacle.
- Do not dump used motor oil down a storm drain! When changing the oil in your automobile, make sure you collect the used motor oil and take it to a gas station or auto repair center to be recycled. Properly clean up spills if they occur.

By following these simple guidelines, Gloucester County can aid in the betterment of New Jersey's waterways. After all, we all enjoy clean water!

