



In Your Backyard



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“Conservation is humanity caring for the future.”

~Nancy Newhall

From Seed to Seedling



In March, the Gloucester Soil Conservation District education coordinator, Christina, gave a presentation entitled, “*From Seed to Seedling*” to elementary students at Radix Elementary School in Williamstown, NJ. Over a three day period, approximately 300 First to Forth-graders had the opportunity to plant various herb and flower seeds in peat pots; the pots were placed under a red spectrum light bulb in their Grow Lab.

Over the next few months, the students will watch and learn about the germination process as the seeds sprout into seedlings. Some of the seedlings will



be planted in the school’s butterfly garden; the plants grown by the students will be taken home and presented to their moms for Mother’s Day.

During the presentation, the students learned about seeds, the germination process, the right soil conditions to grow seedlings, the type of lighting seedlings need in order to grow, the benefits of the plant that they will be growing, and why plants are important. The students planted sunflower seeds, bee balm, purple coneflowers, butterfly milkweed, and various culinary herb seeds.

Pictures (left, below, and right) show the progress of the sunflower seedlings.



Upcoming Teacher Workshops - Save the Date!

Bring ‘em Outdoors Workshop

August 25, 2006 9am-12pm.

Scotland Run Park Nature Center, Clayton, NJ.

This workshop focuses on how teachers can use the outdoors as a classroom. A playground or even a vacant lot can teach students to appreciate the wonders of nature. The workshop will provide easy lessons, handouts and activities that teachers can use in and out of the classroom.

Workshop will take place outdoors, please dress appropriately.

This workshop is free, but you must register.

To register, please contact Christina at (856) 589-5250 or by email: christina-christine@gloucesterscd.org

Wild School Sites Workshop

October 13, 2006 9am to 3pm Cost: \$20.00

Scotland Run Park Nature Center, Clayton, NJ

Back by popular demand!

Are you interested in creating a wildlife habitat on your school campus? NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife WILD School Sites Workshop provides educators with the opportunity to learn how to create a school habitat site, attract wildlife, and use the wildlife habitat site as a teaching tool. Many of the activities used in WILD School Sites meets some of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Workshop attendees receive the “Homes for Wildlife” book, a native plant, grant information. Lunch will be provided.

For More Information, Contact Christina at (856) 589-5250.

2006 Envirothon Competition is Fast Approaching

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.

A team from **Clearview Regional High School**, (Gloucester County) will be competing for the first time. We wish them the best of luck!

For more information, visit the NJ Envirothon website at:

<http://nj.nacdnet.org/envirothon/>





2006 Water Wise Poster and Bumper Sticker Contest Winners

In March, the Gloucester Soil Conservation District received many Poster and Bumper Sticker entries from schools all across Gloucester County for the 2006 Conservation Poster and Bumper Sticker contest. There were many great entries and the judges had a hard time choosing the best ones. We appreciate all your entries and hard work. Winners receive a US Savings Bond.

Below is the list of winners for the 2006 contests:

Bumper Sticker

	Name	School	Place
Grades 2-3:	Gabrielle Griffis	Guardian Angels School	1 st
	Zachery Miller	Franklinville Cub Scouts	2 nd
	Justin McCartney	Guardian Angels School	3 rd
Grades 4-6:	Stephanie Stevenson	Herma S. Simmons Elem.	1 st
	Kathryn Pepe	W.C.K. Walls School	2 nd
	Charles Green	St. Catherine of Siena	3 rd
Grades 7-9:	Alec Hanselman	Orchard Valley Mid. Sch.	1 st
	Brandon Costa	Orchard Valley Mid. Sch.	2 nd
	Valentina DeRosa	Orchard Valley Mid. Sch.	3 rd
Grades 10-12:	Gina Maccarone	Paulsboro High School	1 st
	Tiffany Young	Paulsboro High School	2 nd
	Andre Ouellette	Paulsboro High School	3 rd

Poster

	Name	School	Place
Grades 2-3:	Jerrell Richardson	Guardian Angels Reg. Sch.	1 st
Grades 4-6:	Morgan Durham	Herma S. Simmons Elem.	1 st
	Anthony Kinsley	Herma S. Simmons Elem.	2 nd
	Rebecca Barnett	Guardian Angels School	3 rd
Grades 10-12:	Brandy Domanick	Paulsboro High School	1 st

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREE ~ LIMITED QUANTITIES

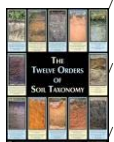
The Gloucester Soil Conservation District currently has the following resources available. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of any of the resources listed below, please contact our office, or stop by to pick up. No items will be mailed. **Quantities are limited.**



Climate Change, Wildlife, and Wildlands A Toolkit for Teachers and Interpreters.

A toolkit complete with a video, CD-Rom, educational wheel, and flashcards that focuses on global warming.

Posters: Soil taxonomy, Water Cycle, Backyard Conservation (Winter and Summer Version)



Video: Clean Water Theater "All Washed Up" Great for teachers who are planning on doing a play or skit focusing on clean water.



Punch Line

Deep within a forest a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs and crashed to the ground.

After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts.

Finally, the female bird turned to her mate. "Dear," she chirped, "I think it's time to tell him he's adopted."



REVISED SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL RULES

On January 3, 2006 amendments to the NJ Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Program (SESC) went into effect.

Of special interest, rules defining single-family home exemptions have changed. Prior to January, most single-family dwelling construction was exempt from the SESC requirements. Now, an application for a construction permit for a single-family dwelling, provided that the proposed cumulative disturbance is greater than 5,000 square feet that has arisen from, or is part of, a subdivision comprising two or more single-family dwelling lots, is subject to the SESC act. The applicant/owner is required to secure certification of a soil erosion & sediment control plan.



The concurrent construction of two or more single-family dwellings, by the same applicant, owner, builder, or contractor on lots which were part of a pre-existing subdivision approved prior to January 1, 1976, is subject to the act requirements provided that the proposed land disturbance is greater than 5,000 square feet.

For more information, please contact the Gloucester Soil Conservation District at (856) 589-5250, or visit the website at www.gloucesterscd.org.

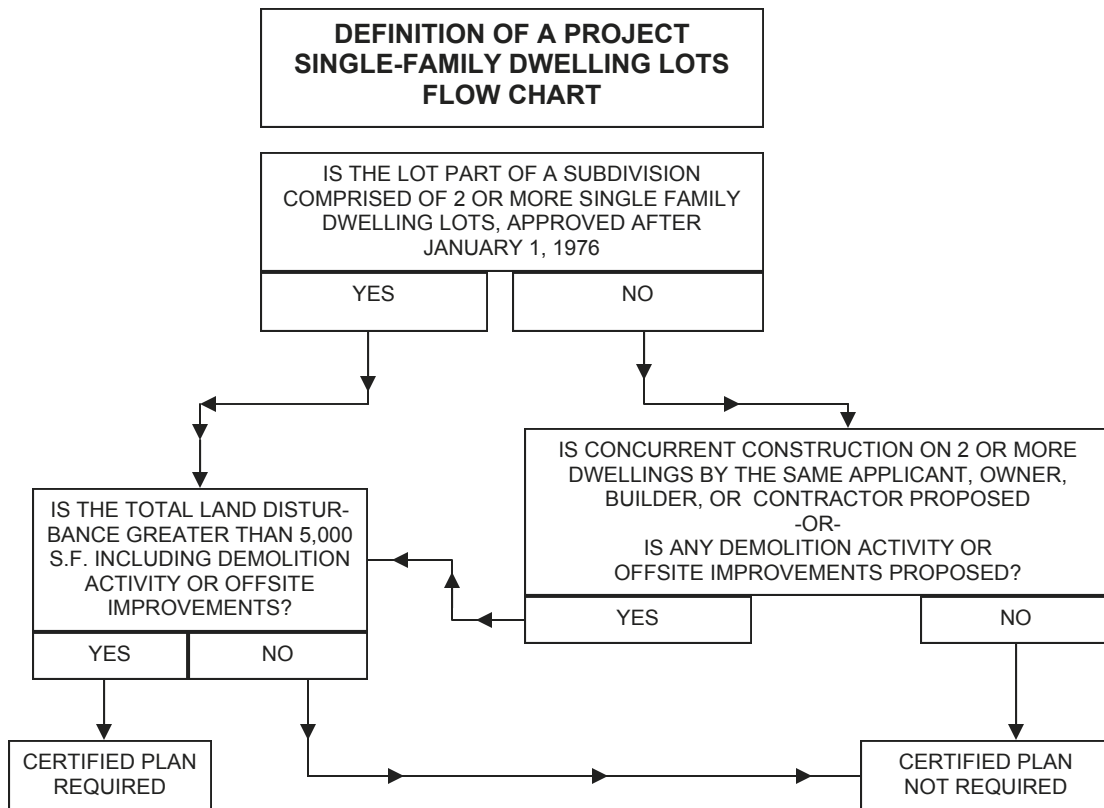


Chart courtesy of Mercer County Soil Conservation District



"Protecting Our Natural Resources Through Conservation Practices"

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www.gloucesterscd.org**

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New Jersey's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program: The Interaction With Your Municipality

This two hour course is an introduction to the Soil Conservation Districts and will focus on what they do and how they interact with your municipalities. Find out how the Soil Conservation Districts can help your work processes become more efficient and effective.

Course Instructors:

Course instruction will be provided by representatives from New Jersey Department of Agriculture, State Soil Conservation Committee, and Gloucester Soil Conservation District.

Who Should Attend:

- Municipal Officials
- Construction Code Officials
- Sub-code Officials
- Public members of planning boards, zoning boards, and environmental commissions
- Interested general public members

When:

Wednesday, June 7, 2006
7pm-9pm
Rowan Hall
Rowan University

Registration Information:

Fee: \$20.00
Registration deadline: May 31, 2006

For Easy Registration Options:

Online at: www.rowan.edu/engineering
(Under Announcements)

Telephone: Kathy Urbano (856) 256-5309

Send to:

Kathy Urbano
College of Engineering
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Rd
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701

Make Checks Payable to:
Rowan University

For More Information:

Contact: Kathy Urbano
856-256-5309
urbano@rowan.edu

A Copy of the Brochure can be found at:

http://www.rowan.edu/open/techfair/soil_erosion/soil2-_picsfix.pdf

