

WHAT'S GREEN?

WHAT'S GREEN?

Vol. 1

The Westville Environmental Commission's Way

Summer 2008

WATER



CONSERVATION

Saving water is something we hardly ever think about when we turn on the tap at home. It is just there to be used and because it is there we use it as if the supply was limitless. Of course when the bill payers in the household get the **Water Bill** there is that pang over the cost overages which must be paid. Up-grades in waste management from septic tanks to sewers lessened the need to be as conscious of water usage as folks were at one time. Digging up some of the old adages and adapting them to newer products and appliances may reduce your **Water Bill's** bottom line.

- * Shorten Your Shower Time. Dollar Store nylon puffs wet with your favorite liquid soap can get you squeaky clean. Shower down to get wet, turn off the water, soap away with the soap infused puff and turn on the water for a quick rinse. Showers use 50% less water than a bath tub and a short shower reduces it further when compared to a "full length shower".

- * Install a low-flow shower head and a low-flow toilet that uses 1.6 GPF instead of 5 gallons per flush. The investment return could be worth up to \$150 for the average family.

- * Use a sink stopper to fill the sink when washing hands instead of letting the water run down the drain. In the kitchen, use a bowl to wash vegetables instead of just running the water tap.

- * Run the dish washer only when it is full. You save water and electricity when compared with hand washing.

- * Adding aerators to faucets and showers can reduce consumption by up to 70% and softens the water.

- * **Repair leaks promptly.** A continuous leak from a $\frac{1}{16}$ " hole consumes 74,000 gallons of water in a three month period. Your basic water allowance is 10,000 gallons. Do the math! It can be very costly.

Likewise, find out why your toilet runs constantly and your faucet drips. Simple, inexpensive gaskets keep dollars in your wallet.



LEADING GREEN

Virginia Horn and Joyce Lovell were selected through a competitive process to participate in a state-wide Environmental Leadership Program sponsored by ANJEC and the Dodge Foundation. A five day program that includes representatives from Newark, North Jersey Shore and Trenton area started in May and ends in September.



The prayers and thoughts of the Commissioners are with Mayor Galbraith's family during this difficult time.



Environmental Commissioners are:

Joyce Lovell, Chair	456-2308
Michael Sautter	456-4505
J. Fred Coleman	456-1489
Virginia Horn	456-8019
Louanna Sills	742-0113
Marie Callaghan	456-7756
Stephanie Wilson	609-970-9823

Meetings are open to the public from September to June at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wed. of the month at 114 Crown Point Road.

THANKS FOR BEING GREEN

Electronic Collection Event

In conjunction with Westville's Independence Day activities along River Drive on June 28th, a truck will be available at 4th and River Drive from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm to collect old and worn out electronic equipment. Items being collected include: towers, desktops, laptops, keyboards, mouse and speakers, printers, fax machines, scanners, modems, copy machines, phones, cell phones, fans and power supplies, hard drives, all types of wire, VCR's, DVD's, CD players, boom boxes and all related computers parts.

There will be drop buckets at the Environmental Commission's table to collect both rechargeable (i.e. camera, cell phones etc.) and alkaline batteries.



RECYCLE RAIN WATER!

BUY A RAIN BARREL!

Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops for lawn and garden watering. A half-hour of steady rain will fill a 55 gallon barrel connected to one downspout.

Harvesting rainwater reduces not only stream pollution garnered as it drains freely down our streets but also the recurrent flooding situation. Our rain barrels are 50% cheaper than commercial vendors. Samples will be displayed at our table on River Drive.

GREEN LAWNS



WATER CONSERVATION IN YOUR YARD & GARDEN

The two biggest uses of water in your home are toilets and landscape watering! During the summer months **HALF OF ALL HOUSEHOLD WATER** is used for lawns and gardens. Here are six simple steps to follow to radically reduce your consumption of this natural resource, lower your water bills and still have a beautiful, productive lawn and garden.

1. Add organic matter to your soil

Most of our South Jersey soil is sand based. That means water will drain very rapidly through the soil increasing the need for constant watering. Adding at least one inch of organic matter each year (compost, chopped leaves or composted manure) to your lawn and garden beds will improve the texture and water-holding capacity of your soil so you won't need to water so frequently.

2. Deliver water directly to your soil

Sprinklers are wasteful as only 40% to 50% of the water gets to the roots or even to the plants you are trying to water. Use watering cans, hand-held hoses, drippers and root-zone watering devices to get water right where it's needed, thus using a lot less of it.

3. Use mulch to retain water and reduce evaporation

A six to eight-inch layer of organic mulch can cut water needs in half! Organic mulch retains some water and increases the humidity level around plants. Keep mulch 2 inches from the base of plants. Organic mulches include chopped or shredded leaves, straw, compost, shredded newspaper, salt hay, grass clippings and rotted hay.

4. Use free water

Rainwater is free water! It's unchlorinated, free of fluoride and other chemicals and good for your plants. One-inch of rain falling on a 1,000 square foot roof will yield 600 gallons of water. That's a lot of free water. Use rain barrels to collect water from your downspouts. Fit them with a spigot and a hose and you are ready to water. Visit the Westville Environmental Commission's table during the June 28th Independence Day Celebration on River Drive. We will have rain barrels for sale and information on how to set them up. Enter a free drawing to win one too!

5. Reduce your lawn

Your lawn is one of the most water and labor-intensive types of "garden" you can have. Do **NOT** water your grass every day. This is a tremendous waste of a precious natural resource and it creates weak root systems that cannot respond when there is a drought. Consider reducing your lawn size by planting native perennials, wildflowers, shrub trees and ground covers. This will increase the beauty of your property, provide food and habitat for wildlife and help you save on watering.

6. Planning your garden

Know which locations in your yard offer sun and shade. Choose native varieties of plants suited to those locations. Native plants will be naturally adapted for our climate and soils. For a list of native plants for Gloucester County go the Native Plant Society of New Jersey at www.npsnj.org.



Summer heat can be deadly for birds and other small wildlife. They need easy access to clean water to survive. Place shallow, non-reflective bowls or containers around your garden where birds are likely to flock. They are particularly active at dawn and sunset.



BIRD QUEST – May 3, 2008

Saturday, May 3rd was such a cold, dank, dreary day that even the birds took shelter. But that fact didn't daunt the five members from the combined Westville-Wenonah Environmental Commissions who named their group the Timber Hawks.

Experienced birders Barry Bengel of Wenonah and Bill Booth of Westville helped the team identify 52 birds by sight and sound at venues in Westville, Wheelabrator and River Winds. The winning Glassboro team identified 76 species.

This was a learning experience for Marie Callaghan and Louanna Sills who said they hope to participate again next year. This annual event is sponsored by the Gloucester County Nature Club and open to any resident. Contact: www.gcnatureclub.org



EARTH DAY - April 19, 2008

Removing trash from the shoulders of Old Broadway in Woodbury gave Westville's southern entrance a subtle revived appearance in April just as the greenery began to bud. Five hundred pounds of debris strained the muscles of our six commissioners and five volunteers with poison ivy the only reward for one of our commissioners.

The GCIA selects a different town each year for this in-depth cleaning. Our Earth Day crew: Fred and Jacob Coleman, Joe Hillman, Ginger Horn, Joyce Lovell, Jim Pennington, Chuck Robbins, Sue Rodgers, Mike Sautter, Louanna Sills and Stephanie Wilson. A grant was provided for this activity.