

WHAT'S GREEN?

Vol. 1

The Westville Environmental Commission's Way

Fall 2008

Celebrating the Importance of Trees



ALL ABOUT TREES

Most of us have an appreciation of trees for the shade and beauty that they provide us at home, along streets, in parks and throughout the county. Since the beginning of time trees have served as sources of shelter, medicine, food, and tools for all life on earth. As technology advances to "improve" life style, trees still serve silently as essential natural resources to sustain life on earth.

TREES:

- * **Support Breathing.** A mature, leafy tree produces enough oxygen during a season to support the air intake of 10 people for a year.
- * **Clean the Soil.** Trees absorb chemicals and pollutants from the soil by storing them and in some cases changing them to less harmful forms.
- * **Clean the Air.** Trees are important tools in the fight to halt global warming. They absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), a green house gas responsible for global warming, as well as carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) making the air cleaner to breathe.
- * **Provide Noise Control.** Leaf volume as well as tree thickness will muffle noise from traffic.
- * **Protect from Weather Conditions.** "The net cooling effect of a young healthy tree is equal to *ten-room sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.*" – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Everyone has felt the difference in temperature by stepping from bright sun light to tree shade. This same temperature control works for homes and offices. Properly placed trees near buildings can **reduce cooling costs**

by 30% and heating costs by 20 to 50 %. (USDA Forrest Service)

- * **Slow Storm Water Runoff.** Tree roots absorb and store rainwater, reducing runoff and sediment deposits. Roots hold soil in place and deter erosion.
- * **Aide Wildlife.** Trees provide shelter and food for birds and wildlife. Their leaves make excellent compost to enrich the soil for plants.
- * **Increase Property Value.** Adding trees can increase your property value by an estimated 15% or more.
- * **Mark the Seasons.** They are the first indicators of a new season be it winter, spring, summer, or fall.

Celebrate the importance of trees by caring for the trees we have and planting new ones whenever we can. Late fall, after the first frost, is the best time to plant a new tree. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in new locations before the rains of spring and the heat of summer. *For information on how to plant and properly care for new trees go to www.treesaregood.com.*



In our summer issue, we incorrectly credited the sponsor for the Leading Green Initiative. The correct sponsors were The Fund for New Jersey and the Schumann Fund for New Jersey. We apologize for the error.



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.

HELP WANTED!!

Gloucester County Nature Club is seeking contributing reporters who can provide details on various tree species of significance in Gloucester County. Habitat information on 30 to 40 species with accompanying photos is their desired goal. The final product will be a new publication featuring the Trees of Gloucester County.

Locations for exceptionally large well grown specimens of any native trees (plus non-native White Pine, Princess Tree, Norway Maple, Norway Spruce, Black Locust, and common Catalpa) that are growing on public land or that are easily visible from a public road should be sent to Karl Anderson, 46 Childs Street, Woodbury, NJ 08096 or email karlanderson@aol.com.

THANKS FOR BEING GREEN



RAIN BARREL WINNER

The environmental Commission unveiled their prototype Rain Barrels at the Independence Day Celebration on June 28, 2008. The incentive to discuss Water Conservation was the opportunity to win a Rain Barrel. The lucky winner was Mark Sullivan of Woodbury, formerly of Summit Ave., Westville. His son, Jonathan showed off his *Hulk* stance while collecting their prize.

DEER RUT SEASON

Just a reminder mating season starts at the end of October until December. Watch for deer crossing the highways between Woodbine and Olive Streets. In a car: take necessary evasive action. On foot: avoid sudden movements and unnecessary noises as you walk away. Call Westville Police Dispatch at 456-0028 if a deer seems injured or dead.

DO NOT FEED THEM!!



LION'S CLUB YARD SALE

Is the Next Public Appearance of **WHAT'S GREEN** on Oct. 11th in West Park by the pond. Learn what to feed birds and how to make various bird feeders; reduce litter and plastic bag use; recycle leaves into mulch and enter to win a Home Composter.



WHERE'S IGGY NOW?

Iggy the iguana ran away in July to bask in the sun on Big Timber Creek. Well, his vacation is over and it's time for him to go home. He needs heat to survive, so we need to find him before Halloween. He was last seen lolling on a deck along Edgewater Ave. He likes fruit and greens. If you already rescued him or have seen him, please contact Louanna Sills or Joyce Lovell.



NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY Saturday Oct. 25, 2008

Come one Come all--Clean up in Fall Volunteers wanted for a town wide cleanup of recreational areas. This is a national event where groups and towns compete for recognition. Let's spruce up our town for the holidays. Lunch provided. Call Joyce Lovell.

MEET MR. ED



Eddie Egret has delighted children as he happily waded in West Park's Pond for the past 6 months. He is a Great Egret whose ancestors survived being hunted to the brink of extinction in the late 19th century. He is a solitary hunter who trolls alongside our local fisherman. Eddie will probably head to the Chesapeake after Thanksgiving, so you still have time to meet him. We hope he returns next year.



Do you have any old folding clothes racks to dry hand washables that you no longer use? Recycle the dowel sticks to make bird feeders. Call Joyce Lovell to arrange pickup.



Migratory Birds

"We're passing thru a neighborhood near you as we fly South". Help us bulk up for our long trip.



- * Fill a bird feeder - natural food is limited so we rely on your generosity.
- * Put peanut butter in large pine cones, roll in sunflower seeds and hang from trees. (If you're worried about squirrels use safflower seeds.)
- * Keep a large flat plate filled with water in a protected sunny spot for a splash bath.
- * Don't forget bowls or containers for clean drinking water.

Thank You - We'll see in the Spring!

AN EARLY JULY 4th

The Environmental Commission's exhibit for the Independence Day celebration on River Drive included a Children's Clothes Line Art activity, Rain Barrel demonstration and highly successful Electronic Recycling Event in cooperation with Magnum Industries. Trucks provided by Westville's Public Works Department collected 1002 pounds of computer, video, audio and sundry components.

We thank the following businesses for their support with this endeavor:

- Brown's ShopRite of Brooklawn
- Gateway Dinner of Westville
- Pisker's Bakery of Westville



Ginger, I think I'll draw a fish....



Saving water has its benefits.....



Marie kept the trucks packed.....

Did you know? Before RecycleBank and electronic recycling Westville had the 7th highest recycling tonnage for 2006 and earned a **\$14,560 Recycling Grant** from GCIA. **Trash = \$\$\$\$\$.** Keep up the good work!