November 2006

Bloomsbury on the Green

Bloomsbury Environmental Commission

Volume 1, Issue 4

"For if one link in nature's chain might be lost, another might be lost, until the whole of things will vanish by piecemeal" ~ Thomas Jefferson

The Scoop on Dog Poop

Pet waste that is left on sidewalks, roads, driveways, parks and yards can mix with rainfall and snowmelt and travel to storm drains and surface waters causing pollution and an increased risk of disease.

It may be difficult to picture how one dog or cat depositing a small amount of animal waste here and there can result in potential water pollution, but studies have shown that the cumulative impact of waste from all the pets, livestock, and resident waterfowl within a watershed can have a significant impact on water quality and may also cause human health risks.

Pick up after your pet. When going for walks with your dog, bring along a plastic bag and scooper. Pet waste should also be removed daily from your yard. How should you dispose of it? No solution is perfect, but here are a few choices:

- Flush solid waste down the toilet. Do NOT flush leaves, sticks, debris or cat litter down the toilet!

- Bury the waste in a proper spot in your yard about five inches below the ground surface (the upper soil layer is the biologically active layer). Another option is to install an in-ground pet waste disposal system that works much like a septic tank (this requires a deep hole). Burial is not recommended in areas with poor drainage and high water tables (within 18 to 30 inches from the surface). It is also not an effective option when temperatures drop below 40 degrees F. Never locate burial areas near a drinking water well, surface waters, storm drains or vegetable gardens.

- Dispose of solid waste and used cat litter in the trash, sealed securely in a plastic bag. While this transfers the problem to a landfill, it does protect the larger watershed area from potential pollution.

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Inside this issue:

Remember to keep your leaf piles at least 10 feet from storm drains!

The Scoop on Dog Poop (continued from page 1)

- Train outdoor cats to use a litter box.

- Dog yards and dog runs should never be located near a drinking water well or immediately upslope of a surface water body. Ideally, the area should be fairly level and well-vegetated and located away from vegetable gardens and children's play areas. Solid waste should be collected and disposed of using the options outlined above.

Don't feed the waterfowl! It encourages a higher number of birds than natural food supplies can support. These large flocks of birds also deposit large quantities of waste in and around surface waters, impacting water quality.

Source: University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension

2006 Bloomsbury Environmental Commission Members

Ilse Goshen, Chair 479-6716

Cathy Foulk, 479-1101

Tim Merkel, 479-1353

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Town Wide Street Sweeping

The Borough of Bloomsbury has scheduled street sweeping on Wednesday, December 6th from 9am to 4pm. The rain date will be scheduled for December 7th (subsequent rain dates thereafter).

PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ALLOWED FOR ALL PAVED ROADS (EXCLUDING CHURCH STREET, MILFORD ROAD AND WEST OF THE RAILROAD UNDERPASS ON WILLOW AVENUE).

Please be aware that violators will be ticketed. Parking will be available at the Presbyterian Church, Church of the Annunciation and K&S Fitness. This project is funded by New Jersey Clean Communities, and is sponsored by the Bloomsbury Environmental Commission.

Backyard Composting Pilot Program

The Bloomsbury Environmental Commission is looking at ways to reduce the amount of tonnage to our municipals solid waste collection. One program that has been used successfully in other communities is composting. Backyard composting is an attractive, simple method of managing organic wastes from both the kitchen and the garden. The rich, dark earthy material produced by backyard composting is an excellent soil conditioner when added to vegetable gardens, flower beds, window boxes and potted plants.

To get started, all you need is a compost bin. The BEC has contacted Rainbow Environmental Products to help set up a pilot program that will offer residents backyard compost bins (including a kitchen waste collection bucket) at a low cost. If the BEC is successful in signing up at least 25 committed residents we will be able to purchase these containers at a reduced cost of $40.00 each.

If any residents are interested in participating or learning more about composting please contact Ilse Goshen at 479-6716

For more information on Rainbow Environmental Products, Inc. please visit their website at www.ecopromo.com

DO COMPOST		DO NOT COMPOST	
NITROGEN	CARBON		
• Barnyard manure	• Ash—small amounts	• Bones	• Lard
• Coffee grounds	• Bread	• Butter	• Meat
• Flowers	• Coffee filters	• Cat litter	• Milk Products
• Fruit and vegetable trimmings	• Dry leaves	• Cheese	• Oils
• Grass clippings	• Eggshells	• Chicken	• Peanut butter
• Green leaves	• Hair	• Diapers	• Salad Dressing
• Sod	• Lint	• Diseased plants	• Sour Cream
• Weeds	• Paper with no ink—small amounts	• Fish	• Unchopped woody waste
	• Sawdust	• Greasy foods	• Vegetable oil
	• Straw	• Invasive weeds	
	• Tea leaves with bags		
	• Wood shavings		

Compost bin and turner

We Shouldn't Forget…

By the start of the 1970's, the environmental movement had gained significant momentum in the United States. Earth Day grabbed the attention of millions on April 22, 1970. And "environmentalism" emerged as a broad term addressing common concerns over crucial issues that affect all forms of life on earth…not the least of which was resource scarcity.

The Energy Crisis of the 1970's illustrated this pairing of environmentalism with concerns over resource scarcity; and researchers began to study the effects of the consumption habits of many Americans and the relation of those habits to the natural environment.

As many people will remember, 1973 brought widespread panic to the nation, with the onset of an international oil embargo. At the height of the crisis in the United States, drivers of vehicles with odd numbered license plates were allowed to purchase gasoline only on odd numbered days of the month, while drivers with even-numbers were limited to even-numbered days. National fear of the dependence on foreign oil resulted in the federal approval of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline in 1973, in order to capitalize on domestic oil. For too brief a period, "gas-eating" cars became undesirable, and many Americans began to buy smaller European and Japanese cars. Carpooling and mass transit became popular topics.

In Europe, a large part of the British work force began to work a three-day week to conserve electricity; and stores couldn't keep up with the high demand for bicycles. India's prime minister, Indira Gandhi, set an example in November 1973 by riding to and from work in a horse-drawn cart.

A year of bad news was punctuated in December, when the President of the United States announced that because of the energy crisis the lights on the national Christmas tree would not be turned on.

As part of everyday life in the 1970's, most Americans had to face the fact that energy sources like oil were limited and not always readily available.

The energy crisis did trigger great developments in the way of alternative energy forms. It was during the 1970's that many new alternative sources we know today were pioneered, and new legislation supported research and development, and installation, of these systems. Some examples are solar energy, wind power, and geothermal energy, to name only a few.

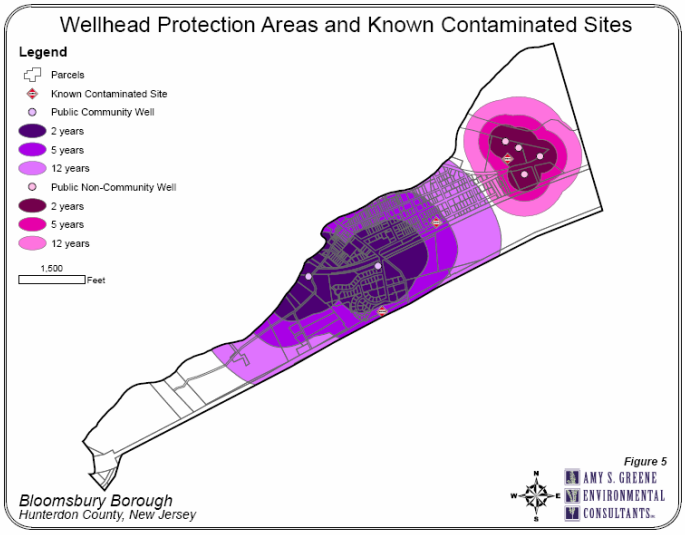
So the crisis was a catalyst for positive change, both in perceptions and in priorities. The shortage of oil resources during the 1973 embargo, when placed in the context of a grounded and growing environmental awareness, profoundly changed the way in which people in the United States perceived energy.

Source: The Energy Information Administration

Bloomsbury Environmental Inventory Report Nearing Completion

In June 2005 the newly formed Bloomsbury Environmental Commission applied for and was awarded a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). This $4,000 grant helped to fund the development of an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) for our town. The Environmental Resource Inventory documents the baseline environmental conditions in the Borough. This report includes resources such as the Borough's soils, wetlands, wellhead protection areas, floodplains, septic system suitability, endangered species, historic and cultural resources, as well as changes in land use over time.

The final report will soon be available to all interested citizens. A presentation on the final report will be given at the November 28th Borough Council meeting. Residents who are interested in learning more about the report should contact Christine Hall 479-6629. If there is enough interest, a second more in depth presentation will be scheduled.



Sample map from the ERI showing the Borough's Wellhead Protection Areas and Contaminated Sites

The Bloomsbury Environmental Commission willingly corrects factual mistakes. If you think that we have made an error in a news story please contact Christine Hall 479-6629

Bloomsbury Environmental Commission

91 Brunswick Avenue
Bloomsbury, New Jersey 08804

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"The Earth does not belong to Man. Man belongs to the Earth. Man does not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

Chief Seattle

Bloomsbury Receives Funding from NJ Clean Communities

The New Jersey Clean Communities is a statewide litter abatement program created by the passage of the Clean Communities Act in 1986. This program, managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Treasury, provides funding to local municipalities to implement litter abatement programs. The New Jersey Clean Communities has awarded the Borough of Bloomsbury a $4000.00 grant to keep Bloomsbury clean. The Bloomsbury Environmental Commission has developed and will be managing the approved litter abatement plan.

Permanent Recycle Receptacles to be installed at Mayor Tuxhorn Municipal Park.

Town wide street sweeping has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th 2006. Raindate: December 7th, 2006 (subsequent rain dates thereafter).

Conduct an in-depth scope of specific storm drains by hiring a contractor who will use a special camera to assess the condition of the storm drains. Once the problems have been identified we will then apply for grant money to fund the extraction of debris and/or repair of the storm drain.

Phase II Clean up at the woods at Mayor Tuxhorn Municipal Park will be scheduled for the spring of 2007.

To learn more about Clean Communities please visit their website at www.njclean.org

May 2006

Bloomsbury on the Green

Bloomsbury Environmental Commission

Volume 1, Issue 2

If you truly love Nature, you will find beauty everywhere. - Vincent Van Gogh

Earth Day Clean Up a Success!

Our first annual Earth Day clean up was a huge success despite the change of date due to inclement weather. There were 19 volunteers who managed to crawl out of bed on a misty Sunday morning to help with the project. They were treated to hot and cold refreshments, and they were given white pine tree seedlings provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Over 100 tires and several tons of trash and rusty debris were removed from the woods at Tuxhorn Municipal Park on Sunday, April 23rd. While this completes phase 1 of our clean-up efforts, our long term goal is to design and construct a nature trail that winds its way through the woodland and wetland areas. We plan to apply for grant monies in the fall to help with the design of the trail. We want to thank all the volunteers who came out on Sunday, and especially Borough Council member Eric Weger for operating the heavy equipment. Without the help of these dedicated townspeople, this clean up would have been little more than a wish.

Jerry Klinger, and his son Gregory, stand in front of a growing mound of tires they helped remove from the woods during the cleanup.

Composting your way to a healthy garden

Composting is a great way to take your yard waste and turn it into something useful!. Most gardeners have long understood the value of this rich, dark, earthy material in improving the soil and creating a healthful environment for plants. Using compost in your yard improves soil structure, texture, and aeration and increases the soil's water-holding capacity. Compost loosens clay soils and helps sandy soils retain water. Adding compost improves soil fertility, stimulates healthy root development in plants and the organic matter provided in compost provides food for microorganisms, which keeps the soil in a healthy, balanced condition. Don't throw away materials, when you can use them to improve your lawn and garden! Start composting instead.

Compost is the end product of a complex feeding pattern involving hundreds of different organisms, including

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- *Street Sweeping scheduled for May 15th from 9 - 5. Rain date is May 16th*
- *Environmental Commission awarded $3000 grant to develop a street tree plan for the Borough*

Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow. - Author Unknown

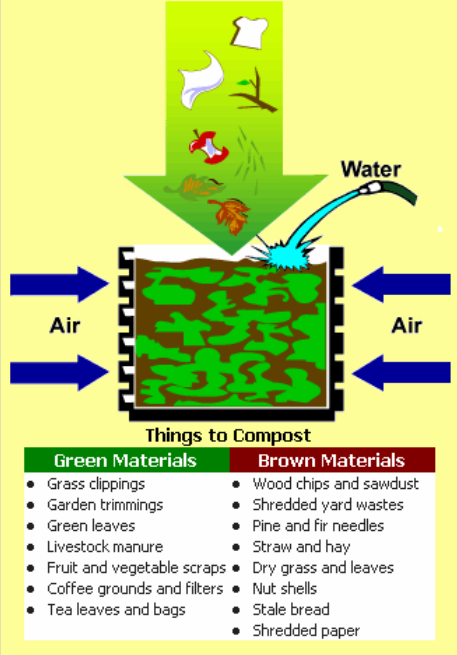
Composting (*continued from page 1*)

bacteria, fungi, worms, and insects. What remains after these organisms break down organic materials is the rich, earthy substance your garden will love. Composting replicates nature's system of breaking down materials on the forest floor.

Depending on your need, you can either create a compost pile in your back yard, or purchase a compost bin or tumbler. Allowing a compost pile to sit and rot on its own involves the least amount of time and energy on your part. It may take a long time (a year or two), but eventually organic materials in any type of a pile will break down into finished compost. Or you can perform managed composting, which involves turning the pile and adding water as needed. If you use all the techniques of managed composting, you can get finished compost in 3-4 weeks. Air circulation is a key element in a compost pile. Most of the organisms that decompose organic matter are aerobic - they need air to survive. There are several ways to keep your pile breathing. One can re-oxygenate the pile by hand turning it, or purchase a compost tumbler.

Finished compost is dark brown, crumbly, and is earthy-smelling. Small pieces of leaves or other ingredients may be visible. If the compost contains many materials which are not broken down, it is only partly decomposed. This product can be used as a mulch, but adding partly decomposed compost to the soil can reduce the amount of nitrogen available to the plants.

Compost is the best material available to enliven your soil no matter where you live. Adding compost to your garden is a long-term investment - it becomes a permanent part of the soil structure, helping to feed future plantings in years to come.



The Dirt on Soil Testing

Spring is finally here, but there's still plenty of time to get your soil tested. For $10 the Soil Testing Laboratory at Rutgers --The State University will tell you the acidity of the soil, nutrient levels, and give you the appropriate recommendations for lime, if it's needed, and fertilizer.

There are 2 ways to start the process. You can go to the office of Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension near the Hunterdon Medical Center, at 6 Gauntt Place in Flemington, and buy a "soil test kit," which is really a fabric bag and mailing envelope that contains the questionnaire and sampling instructions. Once you've collected your sample and completed the questionnaire, put one cupful of soil mixture into the fabric bag attached to the envelope. It will cost about $4 in postage to mail it to the soil lab.

The second way saves you time because you don't need to go to the RCRE office. From the soil testing lab web page (http://www.rcre.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/), download the sampling instructions and lawn and garden questionnaire. Once you've collected your sample, simply put about 8 ounces in a plastic bag –no glass containers please— with the questionnaire telling the lab technicians what you want to grow in that area. You can pay by money order, check (made payable to Rutgers –The State University) or credit card. Then mail everything to: Rutgers Soil Laboratory, PO Box 902, Milltown, NJ 08850.

One common mistake property owners make is using one kit for too many different areas on their property. As a homeowner, you should select one of the categories on the green form and use the kit only for that area. For example, a lawn might be 1000 square feet or 2 acres, but if it's the same soil with the same history of lime and fertilizer applications, it can be sampled with one kit. On the other hand, including soil from a vegetable garden, a lawn, and a planting bed with azaleas and Rhododendrons in the same kit is a waste of $10. The differences in soil pH and nutrients that you would reasonably expect in these areas will disappear if soil from each area is mixed together and tested as one sample.

Sending wet soil delays the testing process because it has to air-dry it in the lab before it can be analyzed. Wet soil is also more costly to mail. Still, 80% of the clients of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Soil Testing Lab get their information within 10 weekdays.

For more information on soil testing call Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Hunterdon County at 908-788-1339.

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Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care

Each year, American homeowners use approximately 70 million pounds of pesticides and fertilizers to maintain their lawns, mostly for aesthetic purposes. If improperly applied these chemicals can find their way into drinking water wells and pollute nearby lakes and streams. So the next time you're out admiring your home landscape, think about the things that you can do to protect our water quality.

Aerate the lawn regularly. Aerating loosens your soil, allowing air, water and nutrients to reach the roots of your grass. Most lawns should be aerated twice a year.

Maintain proper pH. Test your soil and adjust the pH if necessary within a range of 6.7 to 7 for most grass varieties. If you have a dandelion problem your pH is too high and you will need to add sulfur, taking care not to add too much and burn the lawn. If your pH is too low you will need to add lime.

Use a slow release nitrogen fertilizer once a year, preferably in the fall. Slow release fertilizers reduce nutrient runoff and leaching. Be sure to check the label and apply the correct amount of fertilizer. Organic fertilizers, such as composted manure, are excellent sources of nitrogen.

Mow correctly. Mow with sharp blades set as high as possible Never cut off more than 30%-40% of the grass blades in a single mowing. Leave a light layer of grass clippings on the grass for a source of nitrogen.

Use safe and alternative pest control products. The table below provides safe alternative solutions to common lawn pests.

For more information on pesticides and fertilizers refer to the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension website at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/rutgers/horticul.htm

Problem	Chemical Solutions	Safe, Alternative Solutions
White grubs, sod webworms, chinch bugs, etc.	Insecticide application (ex: Merit, Dylox, Talstar, Acephate)	Apply beneficial nematodes, watering lawn before and after application
Japanese beetle grubs	Insecticide application (ex: Merit, Orthene, Dylox)	Apply milky spore powder-can provide years of protection
Weeds	Herbicide application (ex: Trimec Trimec Super, Balan, Tupersan, 2-4-D products)	Using a spreader, apply a corn gluten product each spring to control crab grass and dandelions Pull weeds by hand for large patches in lawn and fill bare spots with compost and grass seed
Fungal turf diseases	Fungicide application (Ex: Daconil, Bayleton, Banner, Compass)	Spread compost or "compost tea" on affected areas

From the House to the Garden: 10 tips for recycling household objects

1. Worn out toothbrushes make great scrubbers for small cleanup tasks. To remove salt residue from terra cotta pots and to clean dirty tools, scrub with a mixture of 1/3 white vinegar, 1/3 rubbing alcohol, and 1/3 water.
2. Kitchen or barbeque tongs are great for picking off offensive slugs and pulling up stinging nettles.
3. Clothespins have many uses in the work area, e.g., seal opened seed packets; clip work gloves closed against spiders; hang along a wire to clip bunches of harvested herbs and flowers; use with pieces of string to shore up sagging plants on trellises.
4. Cut the foot off of mateless or holey socks and slip the uppers over your wrists to protect your arms from small cuts, especially when working around roses and berries.
5. Store a ball of twine inside an old holey watering can, and draw the twine through the spout. Tie a pair of scissors to the handle for easy access.
6. Cut an old screen or panty hose into small squares and use them to cover drainage holes in containers. The screen keeps soil from washing out and unwanted critters (slugs and earwigs) from getting in.
7. Harvest fruits and vegetables in old colanders or laundry baskets and wash them outdoors.
8. Attach a soap dish with soap and a nailbrush to the side of your work bench. Dig your fingernails into the soap before you begin working in the garden.
9. Fill a used lotion or hand-soap dispenser bottle with mineral oil. Squirt on metal tools to remove sap, grime or sawdust. Wipe with fine steel wool.
10. To keep your string trimmer from breaking or sticking, coat the line with mineral oil or spray with Pam.

Bonus tip: When you need to prune a tree, take a picture and make a few copies. Then, with correction fluid, block out branches you want to cut and you'll be able to see exactly how the tree will look.

Source: **Trowel & Error**, by Sharon Lovejoy

Bloomsbury Environmental Commission

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"He who plants a garden plants happiness.
If you want to be happy for a lifetime, plant a garden.
- Chinese Proverbs

Musconetcong River Wild & Scenic Update

On March 29th, 2006, the Musconetcong Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill was reviewed and voted on favorably by the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. The Musconetcong Watershed Association and all of the people and organizations that have worked to have the river designated as a Wild and Scenic River anxiously await a vote by the full House of Representatives sometime soon. On December 18th, 2005 the bill passed the full Senate in a unanimous vote. The last hurdles before the bill becomes law are passage by the House and then being signed by the president into law.

It has taken almost fifteen years of hard work, undertaken by several organizations and individuals, to have he Musconetcong River designated as a part of the Wild ad Scenic River System. Initial work began in 1991 when concerned citizens began calling for the protection of the Musconetcong River under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In 1997, eighteen of the nineteen municipalities along the river voted to request that the National Park Service study the Musconetcong River to determine its eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the National System. This Eligibility & Classification Report was completed in 1999 and found that three segments of the river, representing 28.5 miles of river, were eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on flow characteristics and natural and cultural resources.

Once eligibility was established we needed the support of elected officials to have bills introduced to amend the 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include the Musconetcong River. On March 13th, 2004 House Bill HR 1307 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Scott Garrett and co-sponsored by Congressman Michael Ferguson and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen. On May 23rd, 2005 Senate Bill S1096 was introduced by Senator Jon S. Corzine and co-sponsored by Senator Frank Lautenberg.


Musconetcong River at Allamuchy State Park

Ours has been a truly grassroots effort. The Musconetcong River study is unique among all other W&S efforts that have come before it because the Musconetcong River municipalities passed resolutions inviting the National Park Service to conduct the study. Historically, these studies have been established through federal legislation.

Please visit www.musconetcong.org to view the Wild and Scenic Timeline, an abbreviated history of the 14 year long effort to have the Musconetcong River designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System .

August 2006

Bloomsbury on the Green

Bloomsbury Environmental Commission

Volume 1, Issue 3

We have not inherited the world from our forefathers -we have borrowed it from our children".
Kashmiri Proverb

Bloomsbury's Street Trees Receive Attention

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry have awarded the Bloomsbury Environmental Commission a $3000.00 grant to develop a Community Forestry Management Plan. The BEC has hired Andrew Alpaugh from ForesTrees Consultants, Inc. to help the Borough develop an effective Community Forestry Program. The plan will establish goals and objectives to sustain a healthy and safe tree cover in the community.

A Shade Tree Advisory Committee will be established to work directly with Borough Council and ForesTrees Consultants to identify and manage the following goals for the next 5 years:

- Assessment and Inventory of all Community Trees
- Identify hazardous trees
- Identify Plans for Tree Planting, Maintenance & Removal
- Insect and Disease Management
- Training for Shade Tree Advisory Committee Members
- Public Education and Awareness
- Arbor Day Activities

Upon completion of the plan there will be funding available to implement the program. The BEC is currently gathering information for the forester and if any residents have information to contribute please contact Ilse Goshen 479-6716.

Tree Huggers caught in the act! BEC members (from left) Christine Hall, Ken Robbins, Ilse Goshen, and Cathy Foulk demonstrate just how large the Sycamore at the Rush Devlin Funeral home is. This tree is about 300 years old and the trunk measures 16'6" in circumference

NATIVE PLANTS....THE NATURAL ALTERNATIVE

When you look at your landscape or those at the local mall, do you ever take note of the plants that have been used and the condition they are in? You don't have to be an expert to see that these trees and shrubs are often in a horrible condition. Anyone who knows plants can tell you that the problem is two-fold...poor quality plants and even poorer installation techniques. However, one could also argue that a third factor is involved: native vs. non-native plants being used.

Native plants are plants that are historically common to an area and thrive in the soil and weather conditions of a particular region. Two hundred years ago it was quite easy to make these distinctions. Now, invaders like multiflora rose, Japanese stiltgrass, purple loosestrife, and Norway Maple have supplanted natives such as Witch-hazel, Mountain Laurel, Pink Turtlehead, and Solomon's Seal as the common plants.

Hope is not lost!!! With some

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- *Borough adopts recycling ordinance*
- *For mosquito control info call Tadhgh Rainey with the Hunterdon County Mosquito and Vector Control 788-1351*

"How quickly we can poison the earth's lovely surface - but how wondrously it responds to the educated caress of conservation". Donald E. Carr

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

NATIVE PLANTS….THE NATURAL ALTERNATIVE (*continued from page 1*)

work you can help change the tide. First get a native field guide to help you and remove any invasives on your property (www.npsnj.org for a complete list); then start adding natives to your landscape. Native plants are well adapted to local environmental conditions, maintain or improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and often require less fertilizer and pesticides than many alien plants. These characteristics save time and money and reduce the amount of harmful run-off threatening the aquatic resources of our streams, rivers, and estuaries. Several local nurseries carry these native species, just give them a call and say you want to GO NATIVE!

Some great NJ natives include:

Trees & Shrubs: Red Oak, River Birch, Slippery Elm, Sweetgum, Quaking Aspen, Sycamore, Black Gum, Red Maple, Witchhazel, Mountain Laurel, Carolina Sweetshrub, Sweet Pepperbush, Bayberry, Swamp Azalea, Pinkshell Azalea, Virginia Sweetspire, Red Chokeberry, Inkberry Holly

Perennials, Ferns & Grasses: Pink Turtlehead, Butterfly weed, Columbine, Lobelia, Phlox, Blue-flag Iris, Lupine, Aster, Blazing Star, Wild Geranium, Bee Balm, Coneflower, Coreopsis, Solomon's Seal, False Indigo, Lady Fern, Cinnamon Fern, Christmas Fern, Royal Fern, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass.

Oops… In the May newsletter article *Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care* we stated that the proper pH for lawns is 6.7 to 7. The correct pH is 6.3 to 6.5. For more information , please visit www.rcre.rutgers.edu/pubs/. Enter FS635 in the search box to read their fact sheet on Managing Soil pH for Turfgrasses.

The Bloomsbury Environmental Commission willingly corrects factual mistakes. If you think that we have made an error in a news story please contact Christine Hall 479-6629

The Numbers Are In!

The April Earth Day cleanup at the Tuxhorn Municipal Park resulted in removal of:

- 125 Tires
- 6.15 TONS of debris

All from the wooded area in the park. In addition to the cleanup effort, 125 pine trees were distributed to volunteers. Thanks again to these volunteers who braved the elements to help make the cleanup a huge success!

Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites for More Fun in the Sun

Some mosquitoes spread a disease called West Nile Virus, which can make you or your pets very sick. Here are some useful tips to stop these mosquitoes from growing.

- Remove all cans, bottles, bottle tops and plastic bags or covers from the site.
- Empty yard toys, buckets, barrels, drums and wheelbarrows and store overturned or in a covered area.
- Drain boats/canoes and covers to prevent standing water.
- Change water in bird bath, flower cuttings and pet bowls at least weekly.
- Do not allow water to stay in pools/spas more than a week without proper maintenance.
- Repair leaky faucets and make sure water does not stand where air conditioner pipes drain.
- Clean gutters, eaves troughs and ditches regularly.
- Level low spots in the yard.
- Remove standing water from tires.

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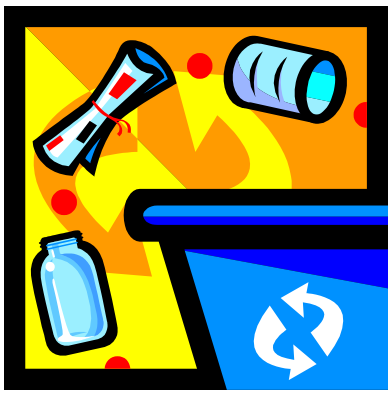
Borough of Bloomsbury Adopts Garbage/Recycling Ordinance

The Borough of Bloomsbury recently adopted a garbage and recycling ordinance which makes it mandatory for all residential, institutional and commercial inhabitants of the Borough of Bloomsbury to source-separate designated materials from all other solid waste for recycling. The following is a list of all the materials that must be recycled by curbside collection and/or at drop off locations.

Curbside Recycling:



Newspaper: cross tie with twine into bundles not to exceed 50 pounds.

Glass: rinse and remove cap and rings; may be co-mingled with other colored glass.

Aluminum cans: rinse and place in rigid containers.

High grade aluminum: (aluminum foil, pans, trays, etc) rinse and place in rigid container.

Plastic bottles: (No. 1 PETE and No. 2 HDPE): rinse, remove and discard caps and rings.

Ferrous containers: (steel and bimetal cans): rinse, and place in rigid containers.

Brush and Leaves: not more than six feet in length, butt end to curb during times as directed by the Borough's governing body.

Drop Off Recycling:

Motor oil: bring to any service station that is also a New Jersey State Inspection station, or any designated collection or disposal site.

Vehicular batteries: bring to any site designated for collection and disposal.

Household dry cell batteries: bring to any designated collection or disposal site ..

Tires: bring to any site designated for collection and or disposal.

White goods: (ferrous and not-ferrous appliances): removal is the responsibility of the resident and/or property owner. Contact any hauler for removal.

Bulky waste: removal is the responsibility of the resident and/or property owner. Contact any hauler for removal. May be disposed of at a site and times designated by the Borough's governing body.

Oil-contaminated soil, stumps and asphalt and asphalt roofing shingles: shall be disposed of by the owner in accordance with procedures approved by the NJDEP.

Curbside recycling occurs on the first Friday of every month.

Saving Water in the Water Closet/ Tips for Water Conservation

Are you using more water than you thought? Inside your house, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used. Here are 10 tips to help you conserve water, and reduce your water bills!

1. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. A faucet dripping at the rate of one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons a year.
2. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank; if there is a leak, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, and the cost will be made up in savings to your water bill.
3. Replace or adjust a toilet handle that frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly.
4. Install a toilet dam or displacement device to reduce the amount of water needed to flush.
5. Take shorter showers.
6. Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water and use it to launder hand washables (e.g., panty hose), or to wash dishes.
7. In the shower, try turning off the water while you are lathering up, and /or washing your hair. Turn it on again to rinse.
8. Don't let water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.
9. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other waste in the trash instead of the toilet.
10. Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.

Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Every drop counts. You can make a difference!

Source: waterinfo.org

Bloomsbury Environmental Commission

91 Brunswick Avenue
Bloomsbury, New Jersey 08804

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PERMIT NO. 10

"What we do on land is mirrored in the water..."
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

What's the problem with car washing?

There's no problem with washing your car. It's just how and where you do it. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains which run directly into the Musconetcong River. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae look bad, smell bad, and harm water quality. As algae decay, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need.

All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into the river. And that causes pollution, which is unhealthy for fish.

So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street.

Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

CLEAN WATER TIP: How can you wash your car and help keep our waters clean?

1. Use soap sparingly. Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.

2. Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not in the street. Or wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water naturally.

3. Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

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