

Jan. 2017, Volume 46, Issue 1

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

Since 1972, STEM's mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural environment of Moorestown for today's and future generations.

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**FREE  
ADMISSION**

## THE ANNUAL JOINT MEETING

Hosted by Moorestown Historical Society, Moorestown Improvement Association, STEM, Pompeston Creek Watershed Association, and the Moorestown Garden Club

**The Moorestown Historical Society, Presented by LENNY WAGNER**  
**Strawbridge Lake Park – Then, Now, & the Future, Presented by CHET DAWSON**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m**

Moorestown Community House, 16 East Main Street, Moorestown

As of 2017, the Moorestown Historical Society is coming on board as the fifth sponsor of the Annual Joint Meeting, joining the four organizations who have traditionally coordinated this winter event.

This year's meeting includes two presentations. Moorestown Historical Society President Lenny Wagner will start the evening sharing that organization's mission, their long-time presence in the community, and information about current activities.

Chet Dawson, chairman of the Moorestown Open Space Advisory Committee, is a former STEM Steering member. He is involved in the planned restoration/rehab of Strawbridge Lake, and will discuss the history of the lake, its present status, and potential future issues and challenges.



Image above, courtesy of Google Images, is of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion on High Street in Moorestown, headquarters of the Moorestown Historical Society.

Light refreshments will be offered. For questions and/or details about the presentations, contact the Moorestown Historical Society during business hours.

## Calendar of Upcoming STEM Events

**Wednesday, January 18**  
STEM Steering Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**Monday, January 23**  
NAC Annual Site Leaders Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 24**  
Annual Joint Meeting  
Community House  
Main Street, Moorestown  
7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, February 12**  
STEM Strategic Meeting  
10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 15**  
STEM Steering Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 11**  
NAC Conservation Project  
Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve  
Creek Road  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, March 15**  
STEM Steering Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As you may be aware, the State of New Jersey allows municipalities to assess a modest fee for the "Open Space, Recreation and Farmland Preservation and Historic Trust Fund Program." In line with this, Moorestown Township residents approved an ordinance in 1998 to create such a fund. Since that time, the tax levy has fluctuated from a high of 6 cents per \$100 of real estate valuation in Moorestown at its inception, to 1 cent per \$100 in 2016.

Currently, of these monies raised each year, 7/12<sup>ths</sup> is earmarked for "maintenance," amounting to some \$380,000 for 2016, and the remaining 5/12<sup>ths</sup> set aside in a special fund for the future purchase of open space. In December 2016, \$100,000 was borrowed by the township from that special fund to address a current shortfall in the construction of a local hockey rink, with monies to be paid back in January 2017.

Throughout the year, STEM Natural Area Care volunteers maintain eight open space (OS) parks in town by scheduling eleven work sessions. During the 2016 season, STEM volunteers spent more than 200 hours maintaining these OS areas. Additionally, STEM volunteers acted as consultants and advisors for an Eagle Scout project in Pompeston Park that utilized 50 volunteers and included the construction of a footbridge and planting of native trees and shrubs. *(continued on page 5)*

## Percheron Park Update

Strength, stamina, and perseverance will get the job done! In July 2006, Moorestown citizens were encouraged to propose suggestions for adding interest to the Town Center. The idea to install a life-sized bronze statue of a Percheron horse to commemorate the historic 1839 introduction of that draft breed from France to the USA by Moorestown native Edward Harris II took hold. As the Township had already planned to purchase the 60' x 75' site at the intersection of Main and High Streets for conversion to a "pocket park," the two ideas converged to become "Percheron Park."

Complications arose that have delayed construction of the park. The park site had housed a gas station since the early 1900s, and the soil was contaminated from years of use prior to environmental awareness and practices. Therefore, soil remediation has been taking place periodically since 2011 to rid the site of substances deemed harmful, 20 feet deep in the ground.

Friends of Percheron Park, the citizens group responsible for planning and raising funds for creation of the park and statue, are hopeful that remediation will be finalized by late 2017 to allow the project to move forward. They can't wait to begin! Recently, a substantial donation from an anonymous source let them know that the project is still close to the hearts of those in the community.

Just as Moorestown native Edward Harris II overcame obstacles to realize his goal of introducing a stronger work horse to America—the Percheron horse—so the Friends of Percheron Park will overcome the delay to the completion of the park. The spirit of the Percheron horse, known for its strength, stamina, and calm temperament, will help to see the project through. See [www.percheronpark.org](http://www.percheronpark.org) for more information. —Margo Foster

Image below by Margo Foster, shows Percheron Park remediation activities.



## "Adopt a Lake Front" Volunteers Commit to Community Improvement

Strawbridge Lake is getting some much-needed help. A little history might clarify why this "Moorestown Jewel" requires better maintenance. Following the 1998 to 2001 dredging of the lake, STEM and other volunteers helped plant a shoreline vegetation buffer to prevent further bank erosion. Initially, the plantings were an attractive feature, but over time the lake became overgrown with vines, new saplings, and invasive plants. In recent years, lake neighbors have taken it upon themselves or hired landscapers to clear sections—right down to the water's edge. This loss of shoreline vegetation has reintroduced problems with erosion and created additional grassy areas so attractive to unwelcomed Canada Geese.

A recent Township ordinance prohibits unauthorized individuals from doing their own landscaping on public property. This has mostly stopped shoreline damage, but it does not solve the basic problem. What is the solution? Residents want a water view, the health of the lake requires appropriate plantings, and the vegetation needs to be maintained. Upkeep of the shoreline is now estimated to cost approximately \$100 to \$200 per linear foot.

To address the needs of Strawbridge Lake and its surrounding park, several programs were begun in 2016 to revitalize and remediate the area. One program, "Adopt a Lake Front," was initiated and is overseen by the Moorestown Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC). It invites local neighborhoods and other groups to "adopt" and maintain a section of the lake-front.

**What is the solution?  
Residents want a water view, the health of the lake requires appropriate plantings, and the vegetation needs to be maintained.**

Organized groups—not individuals—must agree to the terms of a long-term maintenance program, including trimming of buffer vegetation to about three feet high; removal of dead trees, vines, and invasive plants; pruning of larger trees; and removal of new saplings (other than desirable saplings, such as dogwood and redbud). Work parties must be well-organized and maintenance dates scheduled with the Township. MEAC is responsible for training and work-day oversight; and all workers, 18 and older, must sign off on the rules.

To date, three groups have volunteered for the program. In every case, the change has been dramatic and the improvement impressive. The first ef-

fort was an Eagle Scout initiative near the wooden bridges along the Lower Lake section off of Haines Drive. Poison ivy and vines had taken over the structures and trail, and the view of the lake was



Photos above: before and after the Eagle Scout project.

obstructed. Princeton Hydro volunteered, at their own expense, to get rid of the problematic poison ivy and honeysuckle. The scout and his friends completed the remaining work. If you visit the area, you'll now see a well-maintained trail, open benches, and great views of the lake. The Eagle Scout's parents and their neighbors have adopted the area assuring future upkeep. On any day you can find people sitting on the benches enjoying the view, and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings you might catch someone doing tai chi exercises on the bridge!

Two other groups took on long stretches of the Upper Lake across from their homes. Trees have been properly pruned, vines removed, and the buffer is well trimmed. Huge piles of dead plants were removed, and Public Works has been very supportive, helping both before and after each activity. Numerous Township businesses and individuals have furnished materials and financing. Next spring a new buffer will be planted where large stretches of non-native, invasive Japanese knotweed were removed last summer. Two other citizen groups have already approached MEAC to volunteer for the program, showing a commitment to our Moorestown community.

—Chet Dawson

## About the Christmas Bird Count

The conservation movement was just beginning in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Through observation and study, many naturalists and scientists were becoming aware of the decline of certain animal species, especially among the bird populations. Prior to the turn of the 20th century, it had become stylish for women to wear hats elaborately decorated with feathers, and for hunters to participate in a Christmas tradition, "Side Hunt," where the team that bagged the most feathers and fur won. As the conservation movement grew, people with new ecological awareness frowned on these activities.

It was the brainchild of ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the newly organized Audubon Society, to



initiate a "Christmas Bird Census" in 1900 as a holiday alternative to hunting. That year, 27 dedicated birders conducted 25 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) tallying a total of 90 species in locations from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California, with most counts in or near the population centers of the northeast. Moorestown participated that first year with one birder.

Today, 2,505 CBC circles are surveyed from December 14 to January 5 by tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas. Neither snow, wind, nor rain is a deterrent. In 2015, 2,607 species were tallied on the count—roughly one-quarter of the world's known avifauna! The National Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies, and other environmental organizations use the collected data to assess the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. Combined with other surveys, such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how bird populations have



Bird photos: all courtesy of Stokes Field Guide to Birds, Eastern Region, Donald & Lillian Stokes.

changed over time and geographic regions during the past 100 years. This long-term perspective is vital for informed strategies to protect birds and their habitat, as well as identify environmental issues with implications for humanity.

If you are an avid birder with good birding ID skills, consider joining one of these citizen science volunteer groups next year. Western South Jersey counts are coordinated by Sandra Keller. You have all year to practice before the 118th count organizes in December 2017.

—Information courtesy of

### 117th Christmas Bird Count Moorestown Circle

The 117-year history of Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in Moorestown was almost broken in 2016.

Past count leader Mark Pensiero had family commitments this year and could not participate. Jody Hey, who led the group in 2015 was also not available, neither was last year's participant Tom Klak, so it looked like the Moorestown count would either need another leader or have to pass—not something we wanted to consider. But birding casts a wide net, and enthusiasts are well connected. The outcome: western South Jersey CBC coordinator found a leader, Fred Lambert, for the local team.

The day started at dawn with a look at backyard feeders. First bird seen was a Blue Jay little did we know we would see many others that day. The team, John Lestino, Fred Lambert, my sister Judy, and I then traveled to our first stop, Strawbridge Lake Park, where we were treated to sightings of two regal Great Blue Herons.

The rest of the day followed the traditional route and covered visits to Waterworks Woods, Camden Avenue in Lenola, Lew's Farm, Pompeston Park at Fernwood, Swede Run Fields, Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area, and Farrago Farm. The "best" bird for the day was an American Tree Sparrow sighted at Swede Run Fields.

The day never warmed or cleared as predicted, and bird sightings were down, resulting in only 32 species tallied—an almost 25% decline from 2015. Other stats for the day were: 8 hours of birding; 8 sites visited; and walking 5 miles. —Susan Buffalino

## Christmas Bird Count data: What conservationists have learned

- Audubon's 2014 Climate Change Report is a comprehensive, first-of-its kind study that predicts how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds. Of those species that Audubon studied, more than half are likely to be in trouble. Our models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50% of their current climatic range by 2080.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has included Audubon's climate change work from CBC data as one of 26 indicators of climate change in their 2012 report.
- In 2009 CBC data were instrumental in the collaborative report by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - State of the Birds 2009.
- In 2007, CBC data were instrumental in the development of Audubon's Common Birds in Decline Report, which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past 40 years.

—Information courtesy of National Audubon's website

# NATURAL AREA CARE —Caring for the Environment



NAC projects are  
now listed on  
[MeetUp.com](http://MeetUp.com)

## About the NAC Committee

This coming year finds the NAC Committee in transition as its chairperson, Jean Fox, steps down. We all want to thank Jean for her tireless commitment to organizing the conservation projects and caring for the open space habitats in Moorestown. NAC projects are scheduled from March to November each year. Without these maintenance sessions, our local walking/hiking trails would not be accessible for all to use.

A NAC reorganization meeting will take place on Monday, January 23 at 7pm. NAC site leaders and others interested in the care of our open spaces are encouraged to attend. As the scope of natural area maintenance widens, the committee will look to include local partners in the process, including school groups, scouts, businesses, organizations, and Moorestown Township.

Unlike many communities, Moorestown is fortunate to have such a wealth of hikeable spaces. As we continue to value time spent outdoors—for our children and ourselves—we need to understand that these preserves are not self-sustaining and need annual clean-ups. Contact Kathy Huffman at 856-904-8231 or [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net) if you have questions or are interested in attending the January meeting. The NAC calendar on the right is a tentative schedule for 2017 and is subject to change. Please check the STEM website for finalized information.

## Volunteers Needed for all NAC Sessions

In an effort to generate interest among those looking to donate a few hours of their time to the environment, NAC conservation projects are listed on [MeetUp.com](http://MeetUp.com). If you are a member of a scout or school group looking to complete community service hours, please contact Kathy Huffman at 856-904-8231 or [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net). In addition to participating in one of the Saturday and weekday sessions, groups can schedule events at times more convenient for them. All stewardship projects are supervised by knowledgeable NAC members—a love of the outdoors is the only volunteer prerequisite. For images and interesting facts about each open space, visit the STEM website at [www.stemonline.org](http://www.stemonline.org).

## Ninth Annual Esther Yanai Memorial Hike At Swede Run Fields on Westfield Road

Forty degrees and cloudy: Sunday, December 4, 2016 proved to be a good day to be outside. About 20 STEM members met at Swede Run Fields on Westfield Road for the annual walk in memory of Esther Yanai, a STEM founder. Steve Yanai and Kay Smith, also a founding STEM member, joined the group and hiked the trail around the farmed, 90-acre parcel of this 130-acre open space—Moorestown's largest. During the walk, Kathy Huffman read a favorite passage of Esther's about the enjoyment of the outdoors.

As with any area frequented by people, litter abounded, blown by the wind across the open field. Those with trash bags collected what they could—including a bonus \$6 found by Margo Foster. In her years as a litter-picker-upper, she has come across several \$20 bills and other cash.

FYI for Swede Run Fields visitors: the 40-acre section of the park, north of Westfield Road, is currently under construction. The new dog park and renovated parking area are due to be completed in 2017. Those accessing the area should park on the south side of Westfield Road until the project is finished.



Photo above: Margo Foster at Swede Run.

## 2017 NAC Draft Calendar

Subject to change, please check website

**Saturday, March 11**

9:30-11:30 am

Susan Stevens Halbe Preserve  
Creek Road

**Saturday, April 8**

9:30-11:30 am

Wigmore Acres  
Westfield Road

**Saturday, May 13**

9:30-11:30 am

Esther Yanai Preserve  
Garwood Road@Swede Run

**Tuesday, May 16**

9:30-11:30 am

Little Woods on the Rancocas  
Creek Road@Laurel Creek Blvd.

**Saturday, June 10**

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Upstream  
of New Albany Road

**Saturday, July 8**

8:30-10:30 am

Little Woods on the Rancocas  
Creek Road@Laurel Creek Blvd.

**Saturday, August 12**

8:30-10:30 am

Waterworks Woods  
Kings Highway@Waterworks

**Saturday, September 9**

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Downstream  
of New Albany Road

**Tuesday, September 19**

9:30-11:30 am

South Valley Woods  
Behind South Valley School

**Saturday, October 14**

9:30-11:30 am

Pompeston Park Downstream  
of Fernwood Drive

**Saturday, November 11**

9:30-11:30 am

Strawbridge Lake Buffer  
Route 38, between  
Pleasant Valley Ave. & Nixon Dr. 4

## **Pompeston Park, Downstream of Fernwood Drive**

The STEM NAC work party held on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Pompeston Park was viewed as a big success for two reasons. We had an eager group of ten men and women who began at 8:30 AM to clip and pull down many of the overhanging and invasive plants, including bittersweet, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, wild grape, and wisteria near the entry of the park. The second success was that the wet weather that followed from Hurricane Matthew did not begin until we were packing to leave at 11:15 a.m.

After the group had worked for one hour removing invasives, we switched to another stewardship task. The eight remaining volunteers selected their favorite tools and joined an “army maneuver” to reclaim the abandoned trail downstream and remark it as a red trail. While working on the trails, we met several dog walkers and bicyclists who thanked us for our trail maintenance efforts. After feeling the first rain drops, we headed back to the park entrance, picking up as much recyclable debris as possible along the way.

The cleared trail should be fun to explore in the future. This gem of a preserved open space has an unusually long and beautiful trail that heads downstream along Pompeston Creek. Bring a compass—there’s one on your phone—and a friend! And consider volunteering with a friend at the next stewardship project.

To get to the site, take Riverton Road toward Cinnaminson. Turn onto North Riding Road, then take the first left onto Georgian Drive. At the end of Georgian Drive, park along the street, walk down to the creek, and look for the red blazes.

—Tom Hottenstein



### **Thank you to the Clean-up Crew!**

Site leader Tom Hottenstein organized the day and was helped by an energetic group of volunteers, including Yiqiang (John) Lin, Cheryl Holladay, David Bicking, Joe Ponessa, Matt Boulis, Michael McHale, Michael Perez, Tom Aycello, and Monica Hottenstein. Photo on right was taken that day.



## **Pompeston Woods Conservation Easement Report**

Monitoring Update 2016

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of STEM/Moorestown’s acquisition of the Pompeston Woods Conservation Easement. Its purpose is to protect the woodland, stream and wetlands; and to provide a wildlife corridor and buffer between the industrial park and residences on North Riding Drive. The Easement provides continuity with Pompeston Park, an 83-acre linear park that includes part of the Pompeston Creek, an integral component of the town’s watershed.

As development in Moorestown continues, these protected properties become more and more precious and important.

Claire Rollin Adair, Sue Paoletti, Tom Finley, Amy Filippone and Tom Hottenstein conducted the yearly monitoring on December 6, 2016. They found the land to be generally in good shape and removed some hunting paraphernalia discovered

in the interior. Since the property is being accessed via the industrial park for hunting, the police notified the commercial tenants that hunting is illegal in these woods.

There are recurrent trash issues on both the residential and industrial perimeters. The same large trash items appear on the North Riding Drive side every year. In spring 2017, a volunteer group needs to coordinate with the town and homeowners who abut the easement to clear the property of trash. This spring clean-up event will give volunteers a peek at some native species that were reported back in 1996: “Spring Beauties and Jack-in-the-Pulpits abound.” The date, time, and location for the clean-up will be announced—a chance to get to know this little gem.

—Amy Filippone

## **President’s Note, cont’d from page 1.**

Lately, we have been looking at the issue of maintenance spending. While there is no detailed breakout, it seems that except for mowing in a few OS areas, the large bulk of OS maintenance funds go to the upkeep and maintenance of athletic fields and ‘legacy’ park areas such as Strawbridge Lake. While such maintenance (including that for OS areas) is specified in the township ordinance, virtually nothing flows to OS maintenance.

We, along with representatives of Moorestown’s Open Space Advisory Committee, have been meeting with Township Manager Scott Carew in an effort to change this. We have made some small progress, i.e. new signage for the entrance to Waterworks Woods on Kings Highway, and help with occasional maintenance issues, but larger capital projects are meeting resistance. Specifically, visitor access to two high-priority OS parks would be significantly improved by the addition of a parking area at each site.

So far, discussions have stalled, but we are hopeful that an agreement can be reached. We see this in part as an issue of fairness in the distribution of open space monies. Talks will continue, and we will keep you posted.

—Joe Ponessa

### **STEM Environmental Scholarship Award**

Looking for graduating seniors with interest in the environmental field  
Applications are available.  
Ask your counselor for details.

**Kate Angelini**  
**2016 winner of the**  
**\$1,000.00 Scholarship**



Photos above, taken by Sue Paoletti at the Pompeston Woods Easement Monitoring. From left, Tom Hottenstein, Claire Rollin, Tom Finley, and Amy Filippone.

**October 2, 2016 Fall Open Space Festival celebrated “Pollinators—Our Local Heroes”  
Thank you to Bill Creekmore for photographing the event and thank you to all who attended.**



**Smiling faces added sunshine** to a mostly cloudy day that did not dampen the spirits of attendees. Images above: on left, Moorestown Garden Club provided lots of color; on right, Collins Flynn Band was the afternoon entertainment.



*Pollinators were the stars of the show; we learned much about them from Busy Bee Farm & Pollination Station.*



*Photos above, left to right: friendly Monarchs; family canoeing fun; and face painting patience. STEM event activities are always engaging and educational for all ages.*



*Photos above: on left canoeing on Strawbridge Lake. Thanks to Clark's Canoe Rental for handling the water sports. On right: STEM's Coloring Contest entrants on display. Photos below: on left, Girl Scout Troop 22169 booth; and on right, two fishing contest participants trying their luck at the dammed area of Strawbridge Lake.*



**Thank you to all who donated time and expertise to make this event possible, & to all who appreciate the natural world and enjoyed the day.**



## Annual STEM Membership Form

Return to:

P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Is your membership up-to-date?

(An expiration date appears on the mailing label.)

(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Check HERE for electronic Newsletter

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships:  New  Renewal

Individual (\$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$10) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations:**

Open Space Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ongoing activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues and donations are tax-deductible**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** (please circle your areas of interest)

**Communications**

- Flyers, brochures, & postcards
- Newsletter
- Public relations

**Advocacy**

- Attend town meetings
- Letter writing
- Phone calls

**Education**

- Community education
- Educational materials
- School-based programs

**Events**

- Children's activities
- Donating plants for Plant Sale
- Plant Sale staffing
- Open Space Festival
- Refreshments

**Outdoor Activities**

- Conservation projects
- Lead nature walks
- Litter Patrol
- Natural Area Care
- Open space monitoring

**Administrative**

- Clerical
- Computer related
- Fundraising
- Legal issues

**Visual and Creative Arts**

- Arts and crafts
- Fine Arts
- Graphic design
- Photography

**Other**

STEM is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of New Jersey by calling (201) 504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

## STEM 2016 Open Space Fall Festival Thank You

STEM Open Space Festival celebrating local pollinators was held on October 2, 2016 at Strawbridge Lake. The weather was not perfect but the event was a success. We are so thankful to everyone who participated or volunteered time, talent, or made another contribution to the success of the festival. STEM would like to extend a special thank you to:

Adam Robinson

Bill Creekmore

Browning Hess Farm

Bruce Cavalier

Busy Bee Farm

Center for Aquatic Sciences at  
Adventure Aquarium

Cherry Hill HS East Environmental Club

Clark's Canoe Rental

Collins Flynn Band

Crazy Critters 4-H Club

Dave Bicking

Ed Nice

Flagg's Garden Center

Flying Feather Farm

Freedom Center for Wildlife

Food & Water Watch

Girl Scout Troop #22169

Haines Farm & Garden Center

Harry Mayer

Jules Pizza

Kevin Fox

Kristen Babcock

Lew's Farm Market

Lisa Petriello

Live Civilly

Master Gardeners

MHS Environmental Club

MHS Interact Club

Moorestown Emergency Squad

Moorestown Improvement Association

Moorestown Garden Club

Moorestown Parks and Recreation Dept.

Moorestown Police Department

Moorestown Public Works

Moorestown Shade Tree Committee

NJ Outdoor Club

Paolo & Maria Trinchieri

Pollination Station

Rancocas Nature Center

Rebecca & Will LoPacinski

Sky McClain

Starbucks Coffee, Moorestown

Sunnybrook Swim Club

Toadshade Wildflowers

Whole Foods Market

Wing King

**The STEM Steering Committee would like to thank all members who volunteered on Sunday, October 2 and gave so generously of their time and energy.**

*Photo below from STEM archives, is of a 2002 NAC clean-up at Pompeston Park. From left: Dave Bicking, Cheri Hathaway, Tom Hottenstein, Sam & Kathy Carswell, Kay Smith, Cheryl Holliday, Barb Rich, Leslie Smalley, with an arch of a removed wisteria vine.*





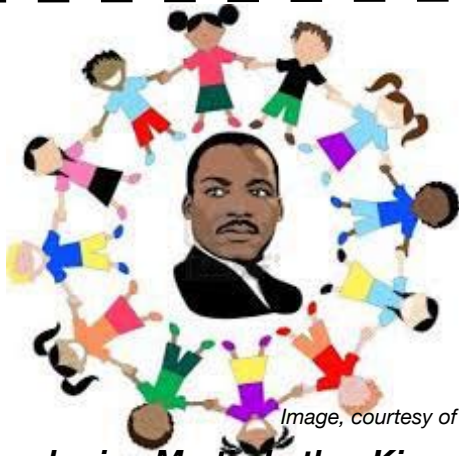
**WINTER  
2017**

Save the Environment of Moorestown  
P.O. Box 704, Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[www.stemonline.org](http://www.stemonline.org)

*\*Membership Renewal  
Benefits STEM Projects\**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**ANNUAL JOINT MEETING**  
Moorestown Historical Society, presented by Lenny Wagner  
Strawbridge Lake—Then, Now, & the Future,  
presented by Chet Dawson  
at the Moorestown Community House  
Admission: **FREE**



*Image, courtesy of Google Images.*

**Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. on  
his Birthday and Throughout the Year**

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day we are asked to volunteer to give back to the world and to create a sense of community—

Other sensibilities to keep in mind going forward, a few of his quotes:

“Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” — MLK Jr.

“I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” — MLK Jr.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that...” — MLK Jr.

**STEM Steering Committee Members for 2016-2017**

- Joe Ponessa, President; 856-235-6376 & [jponessa@comcast.net](mailto:jponessa@comcast.net)
- Elizabeth Endres, Vice-President; 856-222-1163 & [eendres03@gmail.com](mailto:eendres03@gmail.com)
- Mark Pensiero, Treasurer; 856-235-0171 & [mark.pensiero99@gmail.com](mailto:mark.pensiero99@gmail.com)
- Paula Horton, Secretary; 856-296-0798 & [phorton100@comcast.net](mailto:phorton100@comcast.net)
- Claire Rollin Adair, Director; 856-727-3830 & [cerollin@gmail.com](mailto:cerollin@gmail.com)
- Susan Buffalino, Director & Newsletter Ed.; 856-866-9506 & [sbuff4@aol.com](mailto:sbuff4@aol.com)
- Jean Fox, Director; 856-642-7864 & [foxjean62@gmail.com](mailto:foxjean62@gmail.com)
- Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net)
- Diane Miskowski, Director; 856-235-6523 & [miskowskid@gmail.com](mailto:miskowskid@gmail.com)
- Joan Ponessa, Director; 856-235-6376 & [joanponessa@comcast.net](mailto:joanponessa@comcast.net)
- Betsy Schnorr, Director; 856-235-6348 & [betsybjs@aol.com](mailto:betsybjs@aol.com)  
MHSEC Representative

STEM’s Steering Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month (with a break in December), and it’s there that decisions are made about STEM’s activities for the year, STEM involvement at public events, directions on environmental advocacy, financial commitments, legal obligations—in short, most aspects of the organization.

Steering Committee members are nominated in late winter and early spring, and their acceptance is voted on at our Annual Meeting in the spring. STEM members are welcome to attend a Steering meeting (though, per our by-laws, not permitted to vote on motions), and any STEM member who is interested in serving on the Steering Committee is encouraged to speak with someone on our Nominating Committee. New views keep the organization dynamic!

For information about STEM and its programs, contact:  
Joe Ponessa, President; 856-235-6376 & [jponessa@comcast.net](mailto:jponessa@comcast.net)

Join us on the third Wednesday of the month—you’ll be surprised how much you’ll learn not just about STEM, but about Moorestown in general.

See the calendar on the front page or contact one of our Nominating Committee members:  
Claire Rollin Adair at 856-727-3830 & [cerollin@gmail.com](mailto:cerollin@gmail.com)  
Kathy Huffman, Director; 856-778-2201 & [kajer3@comcast.net](mailto:kajer3@comcast.net)  
Barb Rich at 856-234-2787 & [barbrich37ec@gmail.com](mailto:barbrich37ec@gmail.com)