

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #11

Fall 2006

## BCEC Contact Information



BCEC meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month and are open to the public.

Meetings are held at the **Carslake Community Center** at **7:00pm**.

Mail may be sent to BCEC at:  
**Bordentown City Environmental Commission,**  
City Hall,  
324 Farnsworth Ave.,  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

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bcec@mail.com

**Web:**  
www.bcec.us

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## CHANGING CLIMATE, CHANGING WORLD

While the BCEC normally focuses on local issues, we recognize that the issue of climate change and global warming has finally arrived in the national consciousness this year, and its effects will be felt in Bordentown City. The movie *An Inconvenient Truth* and Hurricane Katrina helped to insert climate change into the national conversation, and we hope to make it a part of our local conversation.

The overwhelming majority of climate scientists agree that the Earth's climate has been changing more dramatically in the last 50 years than in the last several thousand years, and most agree also that this is due to the burning of fossil fuels (cars, power plants, etc.) The consequences of this climate change are dire. On a global scale, the effects include the rise in sea level, the extinction of plant and animal species, and the loss of glaciers and holes in the ozone layer. On a national scale, more frequent and intense hurricanes and storm events (Katrina) and increased temperatures (wildfires, droughts) will soon begin to impact our daily way of life. On the local level, we may be seeing the impacts of climate change in the unprecedented 3 "super floods" of the Delaware River and its tributaries in the last 4 years.



Recent flooding at  
Bordentown Beach

Climate change due to human activities is a daunting but not insurmountable challenge, and we can all help slow or stop its impacts. Conserving energy is a good start and will help our economy and create jobs. On a national level, we can make the transition to renewable energy: solar, wind, biomass and hydro; increase the fuel efficiency standards of our cars by 5MPG and use bio-fuels to run them; and practice energy conservation at all levels of business and government. Here in Bordentown City, individuals can become "Climate Change Heroes" with small changes in everyday habits. Some ideas: use mass transit or walk/bike to work, or buy a more fuel-efficient or hybrid car; change your incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs; turn off lights in empty rooms; purchase Energy Star appliances; or purchase renewable energy (wind, solar, hydroelectric) directly ([www.NJCleanPower.com](http://www.NJCleanPower.com))

For more info on climate change, see the Union of Concerned Scientists website: [www.ucsusa.org/global\\_warming/](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/) For more on how investing in clean renewable energy and conservation will help our economy and provide new jobs, check out the Apollo Alliance, a group of business leaders, labor unions, environmental organizations and foundations that are dedicated to strengthening our economy through energy independence: [www.apolloalliance.org](http://www.apolloalliance.org) For more information on how you can step up and help Planet Earth, see [www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net).

Finally, do the patriotic thing and become a Climate Change Hero! Let BCEC know what you have done to become a Climate Change Hero, and we'll give you a prize and publish your efforts in our next newsletter!

## Upcoming Events

**2nd Annual Open Space Ramble, October 21, 9:30 AM (rain date: Nov. 11)**

Tour proposed new parks and trails in Bordentown City. Meet at corner of Elizabeth Street & Rt. 206.

**BCEC Environmental Speakers Series, November 28, 7:00 PM**

**"Get to Know Your Local Environment":** a visual tour of the hidden gems of the natural environment in Bordentown City. Free map & t-shirt. Carslake Community Center, Crosswicks Street.

**Guided Walk at Point Breeze, December 2, 10:00 AM**

Site of Joseph Bonaparte's home and natural area along Thorntown Creek. Meet at Divine Word Missionaries, 101 Park Street (Cosponsors: BCEC and D & R Greenway Land Trust)

## LOCAL ECO-NEWS

### BCEC Summer Break: A Visioning Process

During the summer members of the BCEC spent several meetings and many hours developing a long-range plan for its projects and activities within Bordentown City. Members convened to determine which issues they felt were important, as well as projects they wished to work on because of personal interest or experience. These were then assigned Top, Medium and Low tier priorities, and subcommittees were then created for High priority issues. Activities that were deemed important to continue on a regular basis, such as outreach and communication, were also identified. For more information, please see [www.bcec.us](http://www.bcec.us).

### Results of Invasive Plant Removal in June

A joint project of the BCEC, Bordentown Twp. Environmental Commission, and Delaware River Greenway Partnership removed invasive plants species (including purple loosestrife and garlic mustard) along Blacks Creek at two locations: Bordentown Beach and the trail behind the High School. Native plants, including buttonbush, dogwoods and alders, were then planted at the Beach location in September.



Volunteers after removing invasive plants along the trail behind the High School in Bordentown Twp.

### Master Plan Update: Conservation Element

A subcommittee has been formed to create a Conservation Element for the City's Master Plan. This will incorporate the recently adopted Environmental Resource Inventory as a means of establishing a baseline of the City's natural resources, and recommendations for ensuring that our natural resources are protected. It will include a Sustainability Plan, an outline of strategies by which the municipal government and residents can achieve a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable future. Public input will be solicited, including surveys and public meetings. Please email comments to [bcec@mail.com](mailto:bcec@mail.com)



Volunteers removing purple loosestrife, an invasive species, along Blacks Creek at Bordentown Beach

### NEW! BCEC Environmental Speakers Series

BCEC is inaugurating a new speakers series focusing on environmental topics. The first will be on Nov. 28, and the topic will be "Get to Know Your Local Environment", a visual tour of the surprisingly varied and beautiful natural areas in and around Bordentown City. Upcoming topics will include: *The NJ Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural*; *Organic Gardening Basics*; *Two-Wheeled Vacation: An Introduction to Bicycle Touring*; *The Recycling Cycle* and others. Speakers will be experts on their topic from across NJ. Please let us know of a topic you wish to know more about!

### PSE&G property on Blacks Creek acquired for Open Space

The City recently agreed in principle to accept from Public Service Electric & Gas the donation of a large parcel of property off Lime Kiln Alley along Blacks Creek. This property, along with several other contiguous parcels in the area that have been acquired recently by the City (with essential funding from the D&R Greenway Land Trust), is slated to become a new passive recreation area. Preliminary plans call for trails, benches, interpretive signage and a canoe/kayak launch along Blacks Creek. A resolution authorizing the transfer is expected by the year's end.

### Vote to Extend the County Open Space Tax!

A measure to extend the Burlington County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for 25 years is on the ballot on November 7. Please vote YES on County Question #1 to help preserve more open space in Burlington County. Bordentown City has recently received some funding from the County, and expects to receive more in the future.

## Environmental Calendar

Wednesday, Oct. 4

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7pm

Sat. & Sun., October 7 & 8

*Bordentown Cranberry Festival*  
Stop by the BCEC table and win a free compost bin or t-shirt.

Wednesday, October 11

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Center, 7pm

Saturday, October 21

(Rain date: Nov. 11)

*2nd Annual Open Space Ramble*

Take an inside look at proposed new parks and trails in B'town City. Meet at Barracks parking lot (Rt. 206 & Elizabeth St.) 9:30am-12.

Wednesday, November 1

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, November 8

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Tuesday, November 28

*Environmental Speakers Series*

"Get to Know Your Local Environment": a visual tour of the environment of Bordentown City.  
Carslake Comm. Center, 7:00pm

Saturday, December 2

*Walk at Point Breeze*, site of Joseph Bonaparte's home and natural area along Thorntown Creek. 10am at Divine Word Missionaries, 101 Park Street (Cosponsors: Bordentown City Environmental Commission, D & R Greenway Land Trust)

Wednesday, December 13

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7pm