

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

NEWSLETTER

Issue #19

www.bcec.us

Fall 2008

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**, 209 Crosswicks Street, at 7:00pm.

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

Email:
bcec@mail.com
(Send an email to join the BCEC email list)

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NATIVE PLANT GARDEN AT BORDENTOWN LIBRARY

The Bordentown City Environmental Commission (BCEC) has created a native plant demonstration garden at the Bordentown Library on Union Street. Visitors will be able to see a variety of perennial wildflowers and shrubs that are native to New Jersey, and learn about why they are good choices for landscaping plants in their backyards.

Native plants are beneficial to the environment for a number of reasons: they are drought-resistant and require minimal water; no chemical pesticides or fertilizers are needed for these plants to thrive; and they provide food and shelter for birds, bees and butterflies.

Native plants in the garden include:

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Inkberry Holly (*Ilex glabra*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), New England Aster (*Aster Novae-angliae*), New York Aster (*Aster novi-belgi*), Purple Joe-Pye (*Eupatorium purpureum*), Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*), Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), and Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*).

Additional plants will be installed in Spring 2009. An interpretive brochure, explaining the benefits of native plants and characteristics (sun/shade, dry/wet, size, color) will be available at the Bordentown Library in Spring 2009. Funding for the plant materials was provided by a bequest from the U.S. Charitable Trust (Henry G. Tutek, Esq., Donor Advisor). Plants were purchased from Pinelands Nursery (www.pinelandsnursery.com) in Columbus, NJ, which specializes in native plants.



Cardinal flower at new garden

Upcoming Events/Ongoing Programs

Cranberry Festival - Saturday/Sunday, October 4 & 5, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Stop by the BCEC table for up to date information about local environmental issues and events. Also, enter our free raffle for a compost bin and other green prizes.

Open Space Ramble - Saturday, October 25, 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we walk along newly acquired and proposed open space in Bordentown City and hear about updates on parks development in the City. Dress for the weather. Meet at City Hall, 324 Farnsworth Avenue.

Earth Talk: Screening of *Crash: A Tale of Two Species* - Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.

The screening of the National Geographic film about the unique interdependence of two NJ endangered species: the red knot and the horseshoe crab. Bordentown City residents and wildlife biologists Larry Niles and Amanda Dey, stars of the film, will discuss their findings and share their thoughts on their travels to the Jersey Shore and the Arctic to research these species. *Carslake Community Center.*

Hike the New Towpath Trail, Bordentown & Duck Island - Sat., November 15, 10:00 a.m.

Pre-registration required, call (609) 924-5705. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Marsh, Washington Crossing Audubon, D&R Canal Watch and the D&R Greenway Land Trust. *See overleaf for more info.*

Earth Talk: Screening of *King Corn* - Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

A screening of the award-winning documentary *King Corn*, about 2 recent college grads who discover where America's food comes from when they plant a single acre of corn and follow it from the seed to the dinner plate. The film will be followed by a short talk by Jeff Tober, Bordentown City resident and farm manager at Fernbrook Farm CSA in Chesterfield. *Carslake Community Center.*

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

Lime Kiln Trail Update

Lots of progress on the creation of Lime Kiln Park this summer. Thirteen students from Princeton University, led by Bordentown City resident David Brown, removed invasive plants in September (including purple looses-trife, chinese bush clover, and crown vetch). In October, students of the Delaware Valley College Landscape Architecture program, led by professor Eve Minson, will analyze the geography, habitat and for their Fall class project. Results and recommendations for park development will be presented at a public meeting this Winter. Additionally, an effort has begun to catalog the historic RR buildings on Lime Kiln Park for possible future use as an interpretive center for Bordentown City's unique history in the development of the railroad network in the United States.



Princeton University students helped clear invasive plants from Lime Kiln Park area along Blacks Creek

Eagle Scout Projects

Members of Boy Scout Troop #13 have signed on for environmental service projects in Bordentown City in the next 6 months. Projects include the development of the Thorntown Creek and Blacks Creek trail networks, and the construction and installation of bat houses, which create homes for mosquito-preying bats.

Clean-Up Day in Bordentown Township

The Bordentown Township Environmental Commission will hold a clean-up along Thorntown Creek in the Bossert Estates neighborhood on Saturday, October 18. Call 609-298-2800, Ext. 5 for details.

Japanese Honeysuckle: An Invasive Plant

A reminder from our gardeners that Japanese honeysuckle, found in many backyards and along fences, is a very invasive plant species and should be removed. Introduced into the

United States as an ornamental vine more than 100 years ago, it smothers native plants in woodlands throughout the eastern United States. More information at: www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/honeysuckle.shtml



Japanese Honeysuckle

America Recycles Day at Burlington County Recycling Center, Saturday, November 16

A recycling open house that is free to the public will be held at the Robert Shinn Recycling Center, 130 Hancock Lane, Westampton, on November 16, to mark "America Recycles Day." Residents can bring computer equipment and televisions, bulky rigid plastics like lawn chairs, toys and #2 flower pots, and clean, gently used fabrics. Other activities will include a backyard composting workshop and compost bin sale (\$40), and swap tables for books, records/CDs, and board games. Tours of the recycling plant will also be available, where you can see what happens to your cans, bottles, and paper! Call 609-499-1001 or email recycle@co.burlington.nj.us for more information.

Hike the Newly Opened Trail ~ Bordentown & Duck Island, Nov. 15

Join the naturalist and historian of Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park in a walk along the newly opened trail in the area previously referred to as "the abandoned section of the canal". This 3-mile stretch is the previously inaccessible section running from Lock 1 along the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown northward on Duck Island past Lock 2 (now buried) and ending at Lambertson Road in Trenton. The program will start at 10:00 am. Participants will meet at scenic overlook on Route 295 North. All ages are welcome. Pre-registration IS REQUIRED, call (609) 924-5705. Weather permitting. (This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Marsh, Washington Crossing Audubon, D&R Canal Watch and the D&R Greenway Land Trust)

Environmental Calendar

Saturday/Sunday, October 4 & 5

Bordentown Cranberry Festival
Check out the BCEC table for local environmental information and free raffles.

Wednesday, October 8

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m

Saturday, October 11

Pointe Breeze Symposium

Guided walk and archaeological tour. Sponsored by Friends for the Marsh. 10am. Divine Wrod Missionaries, Park Street. FREE.

Saturday, October 25

Annual Open Space Ramble

9:30 a.m. Meet at City Hall.

Tuesday, October 28

Earth Talk: Film: Crash: A Tale of Two Species

Carslake Community Center, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 5

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m.

Wednesday, November 12

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m

Saturday, November 15

Hike the Newly Opened Trail ~ Bordentown & Duck Island

10:00 a.m. Call (609) 924-6705 to register.

Wednesday, November 19

Earth Talk: Film: King Corn

Carslake Community Center, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7p.m. regular meeting.

Saturday, December 6

Thorntown Creek Trail Day

Trail maintenance and cleanup. 9:30 am. Meet on Elizabeth Street by Ocean Spray entrance.

Wednesday, December 10

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carslake Community Ctr., 7pm