

Feb 11, 2010 Water Symposium: “The Drink’s on Us” :

Led by Chatham Township Environmental Commission, cosponsored by Chatham Borough, the forum at Library of the Chathams addressed drinking water’s source, pollution removal, quantity and conservation. 35 people in attendance.

Chatham High School A.P. Statistics students conducted a water taste preference test. Tap won over bottled, raising awareness that tap water should be valued for its quality and low carbon footprint.

Panelists on local tap water: New Jersey American Water representatives Kevin Watsey and Scott Brezinski. Hon. Richard Plambeck represented the Water Utility of Chatham Borough. Other panelists were NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Environmental Specialist Frank Klapinski; Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) Director of Education Hazel England; Passaic River Coalition/Groundwater Protection Committee Director Ella Fillapone; and Chatham Township Planning Board Member and Geologist Lydia Chambers.

Flyer Describing "Water in the Chathams" Symposium– February 11, 2010

Water in The Chathams

The Drink's on Us: Taste Testing
Panel Discussion with Local Experts
Documentary Film Clips
Water Filter Vendors



Thurs. Feb 11th
7:30 p.m.
Library of the
Chathams

**What's in the Tap Water in the Chathams?
What are the Sources of Your Water?**

**Participate in a Taste Test:
Bottled vs. Borough vs. Township**

Should I Buy a Water Filter? Bottled Water?

Bring a Sample of your Water and Filter Vendors will do a Select Test on Site

Sponsored by the Environmental Commissions of Chatham Township and Chatham Borough
For Questions, contact www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/EC-contact.html

Admission: Free

Article on Feb 11, 2010 Water Symposium:

Chatham Borough NJ News - Chatham Water Quality and Experts Put to the Test by Resi... Page 1 of 4

August 9, 2010 8:18 PM



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News & Information

Chatham Water Quality and Experts Put to the Test by Residents

By Jennifer Jess Miller
2/11/2010



CHATHAM TOWNSHIP, NJ - Residents of Chatham Township and the Borough of Chatham had the opportunity to ask questions about the area's water supplies from the experts and take part in a water taste test at a special program on Thursday, February 11th at the Library of the

Chathams. The event was organized by the Chatham Township Environmental Commission (CTEC).

Water in The Chathams featured a panel of authorities on the area's water supplies, including suppliers themselves and environmental representatives. Panelists including Dick Plumbach of Chatham Borough's Water Utility as well as Scott Berezinski, Water Quality Supervisor, and Kevin Wutsay, Government Affairs Specialist, both of New Jersey American Water, the company which supplies Chatham Township with its water. The environmentalists on the panel included Ella Filapone of the Passaic River Coalition, Hazel England of the Great Swamowit Watershed Association, Frank Klapinski of the NJ DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) Watershed Management, and Geologist Lydia Chambers who is also a member of the Chatham Township Planning Board. Members of the CTEC were present at the event to answer questions, including Kathy Abbott and Pat Collington. Dick Barrett moderated the discussion with the panelists on behalf of the CTEC.

"This is not adversarial but a chance for the public to pose questions," Barrett said.

Questions were first asked of the providers regarding water supplies for each of the municipalities. There were commonalities and differences between each but both appeared to have a common goal: to encourage residents to return to drinking tap water in lieu of bottled varieties. The public learned Chatham Borough's water comes from three artesian wells, extracted from nearly 150 feet down from the Buried Valley Aquifer system. The Borough registers a per capita use of 110 gallons per person per day.

New Jersey American Water supplies Chatham Township with its water from three massive reservoirs that send water into the system as needed. "We have enough in the water supply to meet all towns," said Berezinski, who further explained the water is further diverted from the Passaic River and Wanique Reservoirs as the main sources, or can be brought from other sources within their network. Chatham Township owns 54 miles of water mains and 318 hydrants.

Whereas New Jersey American Water is a publicly traded company with an overall operating budget of \$220 million for the 181 towns under its care, Chatham Borough is not-for-profit and has a \$1.3

million operating budget.

The experts on both sides of the panel agreed residents will pay significantly less for tap water than bottled water and can be more assured of its safety than bottled varieties. Watsey said water costs less than a penny a gallon from the tap. On average, his customers pay approximately \$165 per quarter and borough residents pay around \$90 quarterly. Less than 2 percent of this potable water is used for drinking.

Changing the infrastructure to separate potable and non-potable water was a question asked of the panel, which has been done in other states, and which would require a significant amount of infrastructure changes to accomplish. Filapone said the Chathams are very fortunate to be located in a terminal moraine area in which groundwater is extracted from an underground reservoir and where stones are nearly 50,000 years old and which help to clean and purify the water.

Filapone said the wellhead protection ordinance in Chatham Borough is an important concept to protect the water and said other municipalities should have such an ordinance.

Water for the Chathams undergo the strictest of tests to ensure quality and safety and meet federal and state drinking standards. The Borough's water is chlorinated, but not fluoridated. "Chlorine is safe and OK in the water and means the water is clean," Watsey said.

One of the warnings which all panelists gave to the residents is to be cautious of dumping prescription medications down the drain or toilet. Pharmaceuticals eventually end up in the waste treatment plant but not every trace is removed. Plambek suggested mixing medications for disposal with coffee grounds or cat litter to make them undesirable then send them to the landfill.

Sodium in water supplies is another concern. England said studies of the streams show sodium and chloride both showing up. Residents and municipalities are encouraged to reduce their sodium contributions by properly using water softening equipment and rock salt. Municipalities are transitioning to salt brine, which lessens the runoff impact.

Brezinski said pharmaceuticals that enter into the raw water will not get into the tap because of an ozone removal system.

Questions arose about security and safety around reservoirs. Both water supplies have had security details increased in their areas to further protect the water reserves.

In addition to watching movie segments relating to protecting water supplies, residents took part in a taste test. There were three jugs which held three separate samples of water. One was with Chatham Borough water, the other Chatham Township, and the third, bottled water. All experts agreed there are no health effects from smell, taste or discoloration.

Plambek suggested residents can make water more palatable by not drinking water from the cold tap first thing in the morning, and letting it run. It can be put in a pitcher in the refrigerator for best results. Bottled water was not suggested because the contents are not regulated by the FDA. The pricing of bottled water is 1000 times more expensive than tap. The consumer can spend less than a penny a gallon from the tap. Chambers said that the average consumer will spend approximately \$1.75 for a 17 ounce bottle of water from the store.

Another controversy shared was the exportation of local water, especially by spring water companies, which are not required to report bottling procedures. These companies have been criticized for keeping a profit from the local water supplies. In many cases, residents are paying the price again by buying up bottled water from local sources.

What were the results of the water taste tests? Chatham High School students first shared the results of their double-blind taste test at school, which was comprised of residents of the borough, township and neither municipality (usually teachers). Their results showed the strongest preference towards borough water, with the township water coming in second and Poland Spring Water finishing last.

Americorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador Adam Osborn conducted the taste test at the event, with participants who Barrett coined as having "more mature palates". Results were revealed later in the evening, with "A" being disclosed as borough water and preferred by 16 percent of the attendees, "B" was bottled water and chosen by 43 percent of the group, and "C" as the township water, being chosen by 19 percent of those surveyed.

The evening was wrapped up with water treatment vendors and non-profit groups available with information for attendees. For more information about the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, see their website: <http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/>

Photo above: Hazel England of Great Swamp Watershed Association samples water in the taste test.

Photo by Jennifer Jean Miller



Three Chatham High School students pick their favorite water.

Photo by Jennifer Jean Miller



Dick Barrett moderates as questions are posed to Dick Flambeck, Scott Brazinski and Kevin Walsky.

Photo by Jennifer Jean Miller



Hazel England takes notes while Lydia Chambers and Frank Klapinski look on, and Eto Filapone answers a question from the public.

Photo by Jennifer Jean Miller



Members of the public ask questions of the water vendors and non-profit groups who were there to provide information about their organizations and services.

Rain Barrel and Composter Kickoff Event April 16, 2010: Chatham Township led pre-ordered rain barrels and composters distribution event at Chatham Middle School. Co-sponsors were Chatham Township, Madison, Chatham Borough, Summit, and Berkeley Heights



Composters and Rain Barrels Program
Sponsored by the Environmental Commissions of
Chatham Township, Madison, Chatham Borough, Summit, and Berkeley Heights

Think **SPRING** and **ORDER** your composters and/or rain barrels by
Friday April 9, 2010
to get the discount price*

Our Program offers you—our residents and our community members and schools—the opportunity to purchase composter(s) and rain barrel(s) at discount prices, have your purchases delivered free to a convenient pick up location in your area, receive FREE lessons on composting and rain barrel use, and receive a FREE accessory too! *Product pre-payment is required for discount prices.

Kickoff Event: Friday, April 16, 2010, 7-8 pm

Chatham Middle School, 480 Main Street, Chatham Borough, NJ 07928

Attend the Kickoff Event to pick up your pre paid composters and/ or rain barrels and to get your free lessons and free accessory!

Save it to Spade it! The Norseman Earth Machine™ composter

- The Earth Machine is the number one selling composter in North America; \$55 Pre Order/Pre Pay Sale Price
- 80 gallon capacity, 33" overall height, 33" bottom diameter; approx. 16 lbs
- "Enclosed" composter bin
- Locking Lid
- Easy, snap together assembly
- Retrieval Door
- Anchor Pegs

[photo here]

Soak it--Don't Send it! The Norseman "System" Rain Barrel

- Unique shape and neutral color blends into any garden-scape
- 208 litre / 55 gallon; 34" ht, 26.1 diameter; approx 16 lbs; \$70 Pre order/Pre pay sale price
- Constructed of up to 50% recycled materials
- Mosquito mesh keeps bugs and leaf debris out
- Lid can be screwed onto base for added safety (comes with screws)
- Easily accommodates existing downspouts
- Overflow hose can be linked to another SYSTEM or can be directed away from the house

[photo here]

ORDER FORM BELOW

continued

Save it - Don't Send it !

- Composting is nature's way of recycling!
- Composting helps residents care for the environment, right in their own backyards, while reducing the amount of waste going to the landfills.
- Composters create a rich, all natural soil nutrient for landscapes, gardens, and houseplants and mulch for your lawn and garden.
- Compost also enhances soil's ability to retain moisture (reducing your water bills) and can reduce your reliance on chemical fertilizers (saves you money)
- Composters vs. Compost Piles: the composters offered in our Program enable us to add leaves, grasses, vegetable food scraps, coffee grinds, and many other kinds of "kitchen/food" waste, since the compost material can be easily turned and the composter has a cover and locking mechanisms. Note that open "compost piles" - although good for "yard waste" like grass and leaves—are open, accessible, and are usually not turned periodically; so no "kitchen/food waste" is allowed in "compost piles" in our area.

Soak it-Don't Send it !

- Rain barrels cut household water bills by up to 40%.
- Rain water—free from chlorine, water treatment chemicals, and toxic pesticides—is an excellent water source for lawns, plants and gardens.
- Rain barrels provide healthy green lawns and protect your water source quality.
- The use of rain barrels lowers municipal water demands and saves energy at water treatment facilities by reducing water pollution and storm water runoff.
- Rain barrels provide an extra source of water in case of drought by catching rainwater from roof drains.

Come learn about composting and rain barrel use when you come to pick up your pre paid items. Vendor will also have for sale aerators, "Presto" bins, and other seasonal accessories.

Yes, reserve mine today! =ORDER FORM due by 4/9/10= Don't Delay, Buy Today!

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

I am a resident of the municipality of _____

I want to buy a composter(s), the "Earth Machine" at \$55 each (circle quantity): 1 , 2 , 3 , ____

I want to buy a rain barrel(s), the "System" at \$70 each (circle quantity): 1 , 2 , 3 , ____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

My check # _____, dated _____ in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to "Rainbow Environmental Products"

If you are a Resident/School in: Mail form and check to:

Chatham Twp..... Chatham Township Enviro. Commission, 58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham Twp NJ 07928

Madison..... Betsy Uffman, 121 Garfield Ave, Madison, NJ 07940

Chatham Boro..... Chatham Green Initiatives, 54 Fairmount Ave, Chatham NJ 07928

Summit..... Marian Glenn, Summit Environmental Commission, 13 Harvey Court, Summit, NJ 07901

Berkeley Heights..... Twp of Berkeley Heights, 29 Park Ave, Berkeley Hts, NJ 07922 Attn: Enviro. Commission

For more information: cec@chathamtownship.org or call (973) 635-4800

The Composter/Rain Barrel Program is sponsored by

• Chatham Township Environmental Commission: www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC

• Chatham Borough Green Initiatives: www.sustainablechatham.com

• Madison Environmental Commission: <http://gov.rosenet.org/agencies/environmental>

• Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission: www.bh-ec.org/index.html

• Summit Environmental Commission: <http://www.ci.summit.nj.us/>

Updated March 2010

UPDATE: JULY 2010: WHERE TO BUY RAIN BARRELS:

EPA “We’re for Water” Contest – July 24 – July 31, 2010:

Two Chatham families, featured in the EPA's national water campaign were the Johnson Family and Abbott Family. The EPA's partner, *American Water*, monitored the two families' water use over the course of one week and compared it to their usage during a previous week.

The Johnsons won by using 40 percent less water, while the Abbotts used 25% less water.

On August 2, the two families competed in televised, water-saving games outdoors: a shaving, shampooing and gallon guessing.



The Johnsons and the Abbotts competed to see which family could save the most water in a week in a national campaign designed to increase conservation water through incentives in the state. Above, French Abbott was seen today taking a shower with a third amount of water. Photo by Tom Rasmussen

Johnsons vs. Abbotts: Families compete to save water, raise consciousness

By KATHY MORRISON

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN WATER

Daily Record 8/18/10

Photos by Cara Townsend

Drip

From Page 1

"When you are waiting for your shower water to start, catch the cold water in a five-gallon bucket and the water warms up," said Chris, smiling and tip-toeing toward a friend. "That's one which is in the bucket to water your plants."

Chris said he would like to wish didn't have to pull his children for their daughters, but they asked them to be sure that they were in the middle of a school.

The Abbott family had a slight adjustment in their household. Kathleen Abbott is the vice-chairwoman of the Sustainable Developmental Environmental Commission, part of a Chatham Township environmental commission, which makes recommendations to the county public works and other frequently used services.

"We had renovated our house a few years ago," Abbott

SAVING WATER

used a WaterSense labeled toilet, which uses 16 percent less water and could save a family \$60 annually in its water utility bill.

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lucky outdoor faucet, replaced a flush valve in an older toilet and, for a week, turned off their home's irrigation system. Meredith had to battle with a lower bid water level.

Water conservation doesn't mean purchasing expensive products, Katherine said. She said it was about finding the right size bathroom faucet for water, which reduces water flow while maintaining effectiveness.

Knowing the name of the faucet manufacturer, Katherine informed the company of her dilemma, and they sent the materials to her for free.

The manufacturer believes the new faucet was installed with a green shower-style vent. The two men of the family took off in a showering contest that, which was judged on the amount of water used while showering.

"We were worried not to cut ourselves. Nobody was hurt — no people and no animals," Chris Johnson said, laughing. He and Kenneth Abbott did it first event.

Maria Johnson had Sarah Abbott in the companying soccer, laughing and raring for her six 11-year-old girls' four days with equal amounts of water used.

The final list also was placed on water conservation lists. The Abbotts were the plans of the competition.

The Johnsons were declared winners even though they had used six gallons of water to the Abbotts' one gallon of saved water.

American Water spokesman stressed the Johnsons' reduced their consumption by 60 percent during the test week, while the Abbotts reduced consumption by just 35 percent.

In the end, Katherine told both families could claim victory.

"It certainly was not for fun, but (drama) could be added to water conservation," she said. "There are behavioral things that you can do to save water easily, such as well."

Acron Meredith: 974-694-9812; email: acron@prattmills.com

Independent Press on EPA "We're for Water" Contest – July 24 – July 31, 2010



Two Chatham families to compete in national 'We're for Water' contest

CHATHAM-TWP — The annual "We're for Water" contest will wrap up on Wednesday, Aug. 11, after a week-long contest in 16 states to promote the importance of water conservation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program partnered with American Water on the campaign kickoff on July 14 in Los Angeles and its conclusion on Aug. 2, which features two township families participating in a water conservation competition.

Chatham Township residents Kathleen and Kelly Abbott, and their children, Sarah, 10; Sarah, 11; and Meredith, 6 will compete against Chris Johnson, Age 50 and Kenneth Abbott, age 52, and their children, Mia, 16; and Carolyn, 13 in one which they can conserve the most water.

WaterSense partner New Jersey American Water will monitor the two families' water use over the course of the week as they work to conserve water in their households — using tips they learned from the EPA's WaterSense website (www.epa.gov/watersense) — and encourage it to their own during a previous week, the contest. On Aug. 2, the families will compete in a water conservation competition where they'll be judged on the amount of water they used during the week. The winner will be awarded a \$1,000 prize.

"They decided not to follow our normal routine but to look for new ways to conserve water," said Kelly Abbott. "It will be a challenge at, with three girls, so who's going to be the shower but that will be one of the winners. Sarah was the winner's challenge to win." Abbott said she is also going to change the setting for their automatic lawn sprinkler system. "I think we'll just have it set for the water usage and then the sprinklers will shut off the lawn and run on the shower," she said.

At the conclusion of the 2010 WaterSense Environmental Competition, Abbott said she has a big up to her competition. "We've been successful on home water conservation," she said. "We've been successful on home water conservation," she said. "We've been successful on home water conservation," she said.

Check online for about local and replace water parts if necessary.

Twice on a given water on different dates to see how fast water without a noticeable difference in flow.

Replace older showerheads with a new WaterSense labeled model to save water and money while still enjoying with power.

WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. EPA.

Independent Press for RUTHERFORD

May the driest home win

7/22/10

Chatham Courier

It's family versus family in national water conservation contest

By E. RUBINSON
ACTING EDITOR

CHATHAM TIME — On your mark, get set, hold your water conservation!

That's the goal for two township families competing in the "We're for Water" campaign next month.

The campaign, co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Water Company, wraps up its cross-country tour in the township on Monday, Aug. 2. Following its July 14 kickoff in Los Angeles, the campaign visited consumers in 16 states to promote the importance of wise water use.

The Aug. 2 event features the Johnson and Abbott families, who will compete to see which

family can conserve the most water.

Kenneth and Katherine Abbott, and children Joanne 16, Seth, 11, and Meredith, 4, will compete against the Johnson family—Chris and Ann Johnson and their children: Marlene 18, Corinne, 16, and Carolyn, 12.

Ruthwain Abbott is vice chair of the township's Environmental Commission (TEC).

On Tuesday she said she and her family were "looking forward to some friendly competition" with the Johnsons.

Abbott even developed a few little conservation tricks her family already employs.

While the family has to better curb lawn watering to the flowerbeds, they do already shut off the tap when brushing their

teeth. "My husband even turns it off when he shaves," she said.

But she admitted, "we do have to work on our showering."

Week's Use

How much and when will be of major importance in the competition.

Prior to Aug. 2, American Water will monitor the two families' water use over the course of one week as they work to conserve water in their households, using tips they learned from the EPA's WaterSense website (www.epa.gov/watersense).

The company will then compare that use to usage during a previous week this summer.

On Aug. 2, the two families will compete in various competitions to demonstrate what they learned, and the family

that reduced their weekly water usage the most will be revealed.

The families are encouraged to reduce their water consumption through three simple steps: "check, test and replace." The WaterSense Web site recommends that people:

• Check toilets for silent leaks and replace worn parts if necessary.

• Twist on a faucet aerator to reduce bathroom faucet water to use 30 percent less water without a noticeable difference in flow.

• Replace older showerheads with a new WaterSense labeled model to save water and energy while still showering with power.

Coincidentally, the Chatham

PLEASE SEE DRIEST, PAGE 15

DRIEST: Teaching water sense

FROM PAGE 1

Township Environmental Commission has a WATER "theme" going this year.

The year kicked off with its very successful Water Symposium and a water films feature and the year continued with a free workshop on how rain barrels help to conserve water, reduce water bills, reduce harmful storm water runoff, and help to re-charge our groundwater and aquifers.

"Soak It"

The program, known as "Soak It — Don't Send It," also offered township residents, schools, businesses, and community organizations the opportunity to purchase residential-size rain barrels at discount prices.

In March, the commission hosted "Fix a Leak Week"—an education and outreach event that provided free kits, water gadgets, and information to help residents detect and repair tap and toilet leaks and included tips on how to save money and conserve water.

During Earth Week in April, the commission held its annual RiverSide Clean Up along the Passaic River. Also throughout the spring the Environmental Commission has ongoing water programs, events, and activities involving Girl Scouts of The

From films on conservation to a "spokegallon," water experts are educating consumers on controlling the urge to go with the flow.

taking photos with tourists, educating citizens about water efficiency and recording the trip via Facebook, Twitter, widgets, and the We're for Water Web site.

WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. EPA with the goal of protecting the future of the nation's water supply by promoting and enhancing the market for water-efficient products and services.

American Water, a WaterSense Partner, is the largest publicly-traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company providing drinking water, wastewater and other related services to about 16 million people in 35 states, as well as Ontario and Manitoba, Canada.

New Jersey American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water, is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.5 million people.

For more information on the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, visit www.chathamtownship.org/CEC/index.html or email us at cec@chathamtownship.org.

To follow the events, locations, and schedules of the "We're for Water" competition visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Making a splash with less water: Families win title of biggest savers

By Dan Goldberg
FOR THE STAR LEDGER

It was an unusual result: a rout, but both teams were winners.

The Abbott and Johnson families of Chatham competed last week to see which family could save the most water. The contest was part of the We're for Water campaign, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program and American Water — a publicly traded water provider.

The two families competed to conserve from July 24 through July 31. Their water use was measured and compared with an earlier week in the summer.

The Johnsons won by using

40 percent less water than they had earlier in the summer, while the Abbotts used 25 percent less water.

"I was very surprised because we're pretty thrifty anyway," said Kathy Abbott, who serves on Chatham Township's environmental commission.

The Abbotts and Johnsons took some simple steps to save, including shorter showers. Kathy Abbott said she did not water her lawn during the week. She also installed an aerator on all the bathroom faucets, which limits water flow by mixing the water with air.

The EPA's WaterSense program is a public-private partnership that identifies and

promotes products and programs that help preserve the nation's water supply. Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense has helped consumers save a cumulative 46 billion gallons of water and \$348 million in water and sewer bills, according to the EPA's website.

The contest in Chatham Township and the We're for Water campaign were aimed at teaching the public how simple steps could produce big savings. The contest culminated Sunday morning with outdoor, head-to-head events.

Chris Johnson and Ken Abbott competed to see who could shave using the least amount of water. They tied.

Mariana Johnson, 18, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF EPA, JERSEY AND CLEAN WATER

Kenneth Abbott, left, and Chris Johnson compete in the Saver Shower to see who can shave using the least amount of water, one event in a water-saving competition between the families.

Sarah Abbott, 11, donned their swimsuits to see who could wash their hair the most times in three minutes, using a WaterSense shower head. Mariana won with five.

"We had fun," Kathy Abbott

said. "We have a sense of the greater good too, a sense that you are really doing something for the environment."

Dan Goldberg at New Jersey
Local News Service: (908)
243-6235

Star Ledger 2/3/10

NJAW Water Education Grant Status Report, October 2010 –On multiple RainBarrel projects and A Vertical Hydroponics Garden and Aquatic Ecosystem Demonstration Tanks at Chatham High School (made possible through May 2010 NJ American Water Company \$5,000 Grant to Chatham Township Environmental Commission for Educational Programs)



TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

Municipal Building
58 Meyersville Road
Chatham, New Jersey 07928
(973) 635-4800
FAX (973) 635-2844

Chatham Township
Environmental Commission

... Act Locally!

A Sustainable Jersey™ Certified Municipality



Chatham Township Environmental Commission (CTEC)
Website: www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/Index.html
Email: ctec@chathamtownship.org

October 2010 Status Report NJAW Environmental Grant

July 2010: Our Rain Barrel Program (Soak It – Don't Send It) continues to be highly successful. Our Program has been requested nationally! (The Dept. of the Interior's U.S. Wildlife Fish & Game is implementing our Program --including installation of a rain barrel donated to CTEC by NJAW at a National Landmark!) The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will use our Program at its Fenske Visitors Center and the CTEC-NJAW rain barrel is a featured education/demonstration station! Educational information about water protection and water conservation and etc. was provided and will be displayed for visitors

July – August 2010: Chatham Township was selected as the wrap up location for the U.S. EPA's "We're for Water" cross-country campaign and CTEC provided extensive media and we of course provided educational information about water conservation in everything we did during the campaign here—articles, web postings, videos, speaking engagements, and more. We worked with NJAW and the U.S. EPA on this successful U.S. EPA national water conservation campaign.

August 2010: The Morris County Parks Commission has requested our Program--the GSOE Center is implementing our Program now. Installation of a rain barrel, donated to CTEC by NJAW, has been completed at GSOE and has been set up as an education-demonstration station! We involved the Girl Scouts of Chatham Township--three Girl Scouts from GS Troop 1956 earned their GS Silver Award as a result of the help they provided on this project. The girls installed a rain barrel and prepared educational materials for the GSOEC. The rain barrel was donated to CTEC by NJAW. The Morris County Parks Commission is so pleased with the program to date, that they have already targeted a second park-- Mt Pyramid Park is targeted next.

September 2010:

- September 11 was our Green Fair and our Environmental Commission's booth featured water conservation and water protection educational displays—with outreach materials provided by NJAW. In addition we hosted more than a dozen non-profit environmental organizations at the Green Fair, many providing the public with water conservation and protection information. As a result of our Program, funded in part by NJAW's Environmental Grant, Chatham Township Girl Scouts Lexi Evan, Ani Shannon, and Meg Peckham of Troop 1956 were able to learn about water protection & conservation and rain barrels and they made their own rain barrel for their display for the Green Fair. The girls awarded one lucky Green Fair attendee the girls' rain barrel. Girl Scouts from The Chathams' Troop 510 were also on hand to demonstrate a backyard composter and they taught the public the "dart" on composting—including how composting saves water usage. A key feature of our Green Fair was water conservation and local plumbing and "green" landscaping vendors featured the EPA's "Water Sense Fixtures" and also efficient irrigation and landscaping systems which conserve water.
- we assisted two local elementary schools with the implementation of our Program in their schools and with the installation of a rain barrel—donated to CTEC by NJAW
- we assisted the local high school with the implantation of our Rain Barrel Program and our Composting Program (composting saves water usage)
- We assisted the high school science teacher and Student Environmental Club with the planning of various aquatic ecosystem demonstration tanks (which will be designed by CHS CAD students and cared for by CHS E-club and earth/environmental science students). Students will perform experiments to learn the effects of their actions on water.

**The Chatham High School Hydrosphere Project: Sustainable Construction Using Recycled Materials*

Project Collaborators: Christopher Duvall and Jason Mariano

permanent features.

Another unexpected problem was the need to change the C139 lab faucets to fit the aquarium vacuum, which is needed for twice-monthly water changes to maintain the aquaria. Luckily, John Cataldo's Buildings and Grounds crew developed and implemented a solution within one day.

The last unexpected problem was working with John Cataldo's Buildings and Grounds crew to develop an effective way to harness rainwater for the rain garden. John's crew

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has been very open and responsive regarding the creation of a rainwater collection system, but the rain garden drip irrigation has not yet been installed since the promised roof/gutter system has yet to be installed in the CHS courtyard where the rain garden is located.

Effectiveness of the Chatham High School Hydrosphere Project, 2010-2011

The Hydrosphere Project was very effective. Tank donations were accepted and materials were ordered during the Summer and Fall 2010 semester for the aquatic ecosystem demonstration tanks. The original goal was to purchase three 30-gallon tanks to showcase a variety of aquatic ecosystems. Thanks to the use of Craigslist and Ebay, and the **matching funds from the Chatham Township Environmental Commission to purchase ancillary supplies, (see Figure 8) the following was purchased with the grant funds:**

1. 75-gallon aquarium and cabinet stand with hood, light, heater and filter for \$250 (Central American Rivers tank, see Figure 2)
2. 55-gallon corner aquarium and stand with hood and light for \$125 (African Rift Lake tank, see Figure 3)
3. Four 10-gallon tanks and one 5-gallon tank with several lights, hoods and heaters for aquatic ecosystem experiments for \$100 (see Figure 5)
4. Handmade wood and glass reptile cage for \$152.50 (see Figure 4)

The ability to purchase re-used materials online was key to providing results that were significantly greater than the original project goals and also gave students examples of living more sustainably through the re-use of materials.

Three ecosystems are represented by the two large tanks and the reptile cage. Norbert the bearded dragon represents a desert biome. Students have learned about Norbert's native habitat in the Australian desert, where moisture is scarce and sunlight is abundant. Norbert's desert ecosystem is contrasted with the two aquaria, which represent the rivers of Central America and the rift lakes of Eastern Africa.

The 75-gallon aquarium primarily houses guppies, platys and mollies, species found in

through
Chatham
NJ
TPP
Grant

Turning the Tide film presented on May 12, 2011 about the ecological value of the NJ Meadowlands

Turning ^{the} Tide



THURSDAY, MAY 12, 7:30 PM, LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS

MAY IS NATIONAL WETLANDS MONTH

Since the time of the Pilgrims, more than half the wetlands in the lower 48 states have been destroyed. Often misunderstood, America's wetlands were commonly seen as wastelands – too wet to be easily built upon or farmed, yet a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. Now recognized as a critical natural resource, the tide is turning for wetlands.

This film showcases the hidden beauty of the tidal areas in and around the Hackensack Meadowlands. Travel these wetlands and be surprised what you see!

Discussion after the Film led by Borough Councilman Len Resto

Tips on saving water and money inside and outside, including use of rain barrels

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Sponsored by the Chatham Township Environmental Commission and the Chatham Boro Green Initiatives Committee

For more information, contact: Cindy Steffens, Chatham Boro Green Initiatives Committee, 973-701-0963, steffenscindy@yahoo.com.

Alternative Press Article describing Turning the Tide Presentation:

Turning The Tide, Film About Hackensack Meadowlands, To Be Shown At Library Of The Chathams : The A... Page 1 of 3

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Turning the Tide, Film About Hackensack Meadowlands, to be Shown at Library of the Chathams

by Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee at 02:28PM on Friday, April 29 2011

May is National Wetlands month! See the beautiful film, Turning the Tide, on Thursday, May 12th at 7:30 p.m., at the Library of The Chathams

Since the time of the Pilgrims, more than half the wetlands in the lower 48 states have been destroyed. Often misunderstood, America's wetlands, formerly known as swamps, were commonly seen as wastelands--too wet to be easily built upon or farmed, and swarmed by mosquitoes. The word "swamp" still has a negative connotation, and hence the need for the current, more positive term "wetlands."

Wetlands filter our drinking water, and are essential breeding grounds for a huge diversity of fish, amphibians and birds. Now recognized as a critical natural resource, the tide is turning for wetlands.

"Turning the Tide" showcases the hidden beauty of the tidal areas in and around the Hackensack Meadowlands. Travel these wetlands and be surprised what you see!

Discussion after the film will be led by Chatham Borough Councilman Len Resto, and Chatham Township Environmental Commission Associate Dick Barrett.

Admission is free.

Tips on saving money by conserving water, indoors and outdoors, including the use of rain barrels, will be provided.

An exhibit on water conservation, developed by the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, will be on display.

The Eco Film and Discussion series is sponsored jointly by the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee.

Rain Barrel Benefits

Reduce Stormwater Runoff



A rain barrel allows you to capture and reuse water on your own property and reduce the amount of water that goes onto the road. Foodkeys accumulate a number of sediments, oils, nutrients, pesticides, animal waste and other contaminants that can be washed into nearby waterways.

Healthy Water for Your Plants

Rainwater has no added chemicals, is usually soft and free of chlorine chloramines. This untreated water is great for your indoor plants, your garden and lawn, washing your car, and your driveway.



Conservation of Water



A public or private water supply is a limited resource, especially in times of drought. By using the most of the rain and capturing some of it to reuse on your own property.

Save Money

Why pay to water your property with tap water when you can collect hundreds of gallons per year at no cost? You can install several rain barrels at your home to increase your savings.



Stormwater Management in Your Backyard

The Stormwater Management in Your Backyard program was developed by the Rutgers Cooperative Delaware Water Resources Program in collaboration with the USDA Regional Water Program and New Jersey Sea Grant. The program provides educational lectures, hands-on training, and community-based outreach for homeowners and other groups on the topics of water quality, storm and management practices such as rain gardens and rain barrels. County Master Gardener and Environmental Steward volunteers play a major role in many aspects of the program.

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Northwest States & Caribbean Islands Regional Water Program

Sea Grant



For more information, contact:

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Visit Cooperative Extension Office by visiting:
<http://njrcw.rutgers.edu/comp/>
(731) 932-9300

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, LLC, Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is one of the 100+ land-grant universities nationwide. Rutgers and Sea Grant are equal opportunity program providers and employers.

An Introduction to Rain Barrels



Presented by:

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Original developed by:

CLEAN VIRGINIA WATERWAYS

<http://water.rutgers.edu>

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Rain Barrels come in different shapes, sizes, and colors...

Old 55-gallon food-grade plastic drums can be modified to be used as rain barrels. This helps reduce the cost for homeowners and the amount of waste generated by the food and beverage industry. They can also be decorated based on homeowner preference.



Wine and red wine are a source for old wooden kegs that can be modified and re-used as rain barrels. Though heavier and more costly than plastic drums, these wooden kegs provide a decorative feature to one's home landscape.



Pre-fabricated 55-gallon rain barrels are the most costly option. However, they look great initially and do not require any additional modifications. They can also be purchased easily from a nearby retailer.



Plastic trash cans, though smaller than the 55-gallon drums, can also be purchased from a retailer and modified as a rain barrel. Food-grade plastic drums are not always readily available to the general public.



Rain Barrel Installation Instructions

- Obtain about 10 feet of 1.25 inch sump pump hose for use on the overflow spout.
- Prepare the area under the downspout by leveling the ground and adding sand or crushed stone, if necessary.
- Rain barrels need to be elevated above ground level to create adequate water pressure. Use bricks, cinder blocks or pressure treated wood to create a platform. Note: 55 gallons of water weighs almost 500 pounds.

1. Cut the downspout above the rain barrel. Leave enough space to re-attach the downspout elbow.

2. Place the rain barrel on the platform, direct the downspout above the screen, and wait for the next storm!

- Do not use rain barrel water for cooking or drinking.
- Always keep the screen on your rain barrel to prevent mosquito breeding. Add a mosquito "dunk" to the barrel (available at pet stores or online).
- Do not collect rain water if you use a moss killer or suspect other chemical contaminants on your rooftop.
- Disconnect the barrel in the winter or store it inside.
- Use the water within a week or before the next storm event, whichever comes first.



Rutgers Rain Garden brochure distributed at Turn of the Tide Event:

Garden for Cleaner Water



What is stormwater runoff?
Stormwater runoff is the water that runs over any of the land during a rainstorm or snowmelt, rather than soaking in.



What's the problem?
As stormwater runs over streets, parking lots, and lawns it can pick up and carry many kinds of materials that get washed into nearby streams and lakes. This leads to stormwater pollution!

Where do these pollutants come from?
Stormwater picks up contaminants that come from all of us:

- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Bacteria from pet waste
- Eroded soil
- Road salt
- Grass clippings
- Litter

Rain gardens capture and filter stormwater.
Just to name a few! These pollutants wash into ditches & down storm drains, and end up in local waterways.



Rain gardens are a beautiful and beneficial addition to any landscape. By capturing rain water, they help to reduce stormwater pollution and protect local streams, lakes, and rivers.

BUILD A RAIN GARDEN OF YOUR OWN





Photo of a beautiful rain garden at the Monmouth County Courthouse Garden Building in Dayton, NJ. (Source: NJ DEP)

For more information and technical assistance, contact:

Christopher Obregon, Ph.D., PE
Extension Specialist, Cooperative Extension
Water Resources Program
732-932-3550 ext. 6259
or
Your Cooperative Extension
County Agent by visiting:
<http://waterresources.educ.nj.gov/edat.asp>

Cooperative Extension Program, The State University of New Jersey, 101
Catherine Avenue, Suite 100, Trenton, NJ 08646-0101
NJ State University, 101 Catherine Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08646-0101
NJ State University, 101 Catherine Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08646-0101


An Introduction to Rain Gardens

Published by **RUTGERS**
New Jersey State University
101-787-2333

Originally developed by
Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

What is a Rain Garden?



Rain gardens are where form meets function and the water meets the ground. Simply put, rain gardens are gardens that are specifically designed to soak up rain water, mainly from roofs, but also from driveways and patios. Rain gardens look like regular flower gardens, but they are more. When it rains, a rain garden fills with a few inches of water and allows the water to slowly filter into the ground rather than running off to the storm drains. Compared to a patch of lawn, a rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground! They also add beauty to neighborhoods and provide wildlife habitat!

Plan

Choosing a Spot

Rain gardens can be designed to catch water from a roof or even a driveway. When choosing a location for your garden, pick an area that is relatively flat or that has a slight slope. Keep the following considerations in mind:

- Rain gardens are NOT a solution to wet areas! The garden must have good drainage so that water can soak in within 24 hours after a rain event. This will also prevent your garden from becoming a mosquito swamp!
- The garden should be at least 10 feet away from the house.
- The garden should receive full or partial sunlight.
- Avoid the area over a septic system.
- The garden must not be in an overflow area that will cause erosion unless it is a proper location that your neighbors love!

Prepare

How Big?

The size of your garden will depend upon 3 main factors:

1. The size of the drainage area
2. The type of soils on the site
3. The depth of the garden.

A typical residential rain garden ranges from 100 to 300 square feet. Call Cornell Cooperative Extension for assistance in calculating the dimensions of your garden.

Plant

Plant Selection

Choose plants that have a variety of heights, textures, and flower times. It is important to select plants that can tolerate both wet and dry conditions, and that are suited to the sun/shade exposure of your garden.

Tip! Dig each hole 2x the width of the plant plug. The hole should be deep enough so that the crown of the plug is level with the ground.



Ready to Dig?

- Use string to outline the shape of your garden.
- On a slope, more digging will be required on the uphill side. Use sod or soil to build a berm on the downhill side.
- The bottom of the garden must be flat & level.
- Don't forget to make an overflow for heavy rain events!



Before you dig call **The NJ One Call Hotline** (1-800-272-1000) to locate underground utility lines!

