



Trout in the Classroom

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Trout in the Classroom

- Hundreds of students have experienced raising trout hands-on
- Students have learned how their actions can effect water quality
- Hundreds of young trout will be released this spring

The students in Kevin Sullivan’s environmental classes at Middletown High School South are learning that raising young trout — from eggs to fry — can be a challenge. The water in the 30 gallon tank has to be changed on a regular basis, the right balance of chemicals has to be maintained, and the temperature has to remain at a cool 53 degrees, not to mention staying dry during water changes!

Raising any type of baby can be hard work, but watching the trout eggs hatch and evolve, and learning how fragile their environment can be, is all part of Trout in the Classroom (TIC).

Middletown High School South is one of six schools selected to participate in the TIC, Freehold Soil Conservation District and Trout Unlimited partnership. Freehold SCD supplied all the equipment — tanks, chillers, filters, etc., — and Trout Unlimited (TU) volunteers delivered the eggs and food to each school. Brian Cowden, NJ Council TU-TIC Coordinator and his fellow volunteers also provide technical trout expertise. Holly Posna and Paul Califano coordinate the TIC program responsibilities at the Freehold District.

Gayle Martinez, of South River Middle School, proudly showed off the “paper” trout — and their offspring — created

by her students as part of a trout genetics lesson. When asked about the TIC experience, South River student Emilio Obregon wrote, “I have watched these trout hatch from their eggs, to the alevin stage, all the way to the fry stage. It makes me more considerate about wildlife and how fragile their environment is.”

Mrs. Irene Foret’s fifth grade students at St. Stanislaus Kostka School, Sayreville, enthusiastically take turns testing the pH level in their tank along with feeding duties. The custodial staff at St. Stan’s has taken on the task of water changes and weekend feedings.

Ms. Jennifer Hutchinson’s science classes at the Fords Middle School have an abundance of about 50 young trout in their tank. (See Trout on page 2)



(l-r) E.J. Gross, Glenn O’Connell, Mr. Kevin Sullivan and Eric Dalgleish participate in the TIC program at Middletown High School South

“Conservation’s Power” Poster Contest Winners

Over 50 poster entries were received for the 2007 Conservation Poster Contest by students in grades 2-12 from Middlesex and Monmouth Counties who were asked to create a poster depicting “Conservation’s Power.” We thank all students and teachers who participated in the contest. Judging was a difficult task, and once the scores were tallied the winners were:

	Student	Town	School
Grades 10-12			
1 st place	Michelle Chang	Edison	J.P. Stevens High School
2 nd place	Caitlin Moran	Howell	Howell High School
3 rd place	Shannon Christy	Howell	Howell High School
Grades 7-9			
1 st place	Jessica Zhang	Cranbury	Sharron Art Center
2 nd place	Stephanie Han	Morganville	Marlboro Memorial Middle
3 rd place	Aakash Patel	Perth Amboy	Perth Amboy Catholic MS
Grades 4-6			
1 st place	Juliana Wu	Holmdel	Indian Hill School
2 nd place	Shannon Schatzman	Sea Girt	St. Catharine’s School
3 rd place	Kristine Liu	Edison	Sharron Art Center
Grades 2-3			
1 st place	Abigail Ren	Edison	Wardlaw-Hartridge School
2 nd place	Caroline McHugh	Avon	St. Catharine’s School
3 rd place	Sarah Liang	Monmouth Junction	Brooks Crossing Elementary

First place winners received \$100 U.S. savings bonds, second place winners received \$75 bonds and third place winners received \$50 bonds from Freehold Soil Conservation District. First place entries were submitted to the NJ Association of Conservation Districts for consideration for State level awards.

Trout in the Classroom (continued from page 1)

A demonstration tank is also housed at the Freehold SCD office to educate the building community about the impact their projects make on trout habitat.

The young trout are scheduled to be released in May-June in area brooks and rivers with NJDEP permits.
(Photos by Paul Califano)



Ms. Gayle Martinez’s class at South River Middle School hosts a Trout in the Classroom tank in Middlesex County.

Farm Bill Funding: Apply Now for 2008

NOW is the time to contact your local NRCS office and start the application process for the 2008 Farm Bill Program funding. Beginning the process early affords more time for applicants to work with the NRCS Soil Conservationists and address on-farm resource concerns through conservation planning.

Land managers applying for 2008 funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) should submit applications to their local Natural Resources Conversation Service (NRCS) office by **June 1, 2007**. Applications received after the 1st will be held for consideration in the next funding period for 2009 contracts. The deadline date for 2009 contracts sign-up will be announced.

Through EQIP, the most utilized program in NJ, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices and address soil, water, air and grazing land issues on agricultural land.

Also, the Renewable Energy Incentive for 2008 will include the Air Resource Management Practice. This practice will focus on replacement of diesel engines for irrigation pumps to meet current EPA air quality standards, providing incentives for the use of biodiesel and ethanol fuels. In addition, incentive payments will be made for solar or wind energy generation for solar irrigation and livestock watering systems.

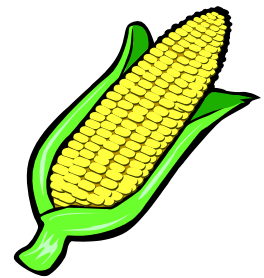
Under the WHIP program, the second

most utilized program, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for creating, enhancing and maintaining wildlife habitat on non-federal lands.

The Wetland Reserve Program provides technical and financial assistance in return for restoring and protecting wetland functions and values. Wetlands benefit NJ by providing fish & wildlife habitats; improving water quality; reduce flooding; recharging groundwater; protecting biological diversity; as well as providing opportunities for educational, scientific and recreational activities.

For details on NJ Farm Bill programs and your local NRCS Service Center, please visit the NRCS website www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/. Contact the NRCS Freehold Service Center at 732-462-0075.

June 1, 2007 is the deadline to apply for New Jersey Farm Bill Funding



Construction Officials Seminars

Freehold Soil Conservation District hosted two seminars for Municipal Construction Officials from Middlesex and Monmouth Counties to familiarize them with the NJ Soil Erosion and Sediment Control program and with newer Phase II Stormwater regulations. Over sixty municipal representatives attended the seminars, which were held on two separate days.

Freehold SCD staff members presented information on the SESC application, compliance and enforcement requirements. Frank Minch, from the NJ Department of Agriculture, provided guidance on single family exemptions and Brian McLendon, from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, gave an overview of the Phase II Stormwater regulations and how they impact municipalities.

Seminar attendees received information about projects in their municipalities and had the opportunity to meet with District staff to discuss individual issues and to improve communication between all parties.

Freehold Soil Conservation District

4000 Kozloski Road
PO Box 5033
Freehold, NJ 07728

Phone: 732-683-8500
Fax: 732-683-9140
Email: info@freeholdscd.org

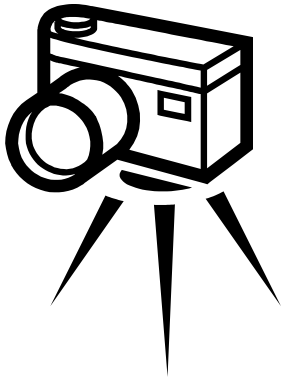
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Newsletter Editor: Karen Rowe

Photo Contest



Do you take photos? If you like to photograph subjects such as natural resources, agriculture, nature, landscapes, people interacting with the environment, waterscapes or wildlife within Middlesex and Monmouth Counties then we have a contest for you.

Freehold Soil Conservation District is sponsoring our first Photo Contest. We are looking for photos that promote the beauty and uniqueness of the natural environments found in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties.



Photo Contest Prizes:
First Place: \$200
Second Place: \$100
Third Place: \$75

FSCD Photo Contest Rules

- Photo must be taken in Middlesex or Monmouth County
- One (1) entry per person, ages 18+
- Photo subjects should depict the natural beauty, natural environment, agriculture, wildlife, landscapes or waterscapes unique to our area
- Photo location, landmark, town or address should be included with entry
- Photo sizes: 8"x10" or 8"x12" (color or black & white)
- Photos must be received by Freehold SCD by **September 17, 2007**
- All photos become the property of the contest sponsor
- Photos may be submitted by mail to the address at the top of this page or by email to info@freeholdscd.org.

Questions: Please contact Karen Rowe at 732-683-8500 or at info@freeholdscd.org.