

2009

FALL NEWSLETTER



Plants for Pollinators



FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Connection

Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom* is a new project being piloted at the Freehold Soil Conservation District to help students learn about native plants and pollinators in the classroom and beyond.

Pollinators play a significant role in the production of over 150 food crops in the United States — among them apples, almonds, blueberries, cranberries, kiwis, melons, pears, plums and squash. An estimated 90% of flowering plants depend on bees and other insects, as well as birds and bats, for pollination. Pollinators are critical to the production of most major food crops around the world and in New Jersey and they are virtually impossible to replace.

The Plants for Pollinators (PPIC) program is designed to help Middlesex and

Monmouth County students discover the importance of pollinators and to study the relationship between plants and pollinators.



Selected teachers will receive an indoor growing kit (plant stand, grow bulbs, potting soil and seeds) to explore plant growth, conduct experiments and raise butterfly plants.

A Resource Kit will be provided to help students learn about native pollinators and how to create a schoolyard pollinator garden. Student-raised plants are to be planted in the school's garden or suitable community location.

Participating classes will also receive a small selection of ready-to-plant butterfly plants to enhance the school or community garden.

Suggested lesson plans, tip sheets, resource material, and a NJ Butterfly Pocket ID Guide are also included in the **PPIC** kit.

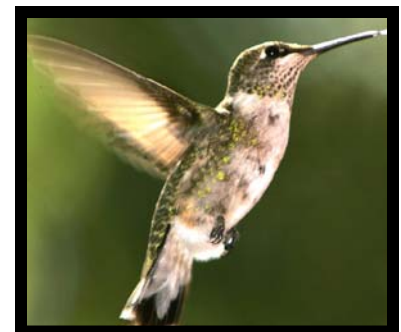
This program is **FREE** of charge, but supplies are limited. Selected teachers will be required to submit two short status reports on the highlights of the program and how PPIC helped to meet Core Curriculum Content Standards, where applicable.

Call our office or visit our website at www.freeholdscd.org for the PPIC application.

[*Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom has been adapted from the Mercer County Soil Conservation District.]

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Four Awarded \$2,000 College Scholarships

Freehold SCD awarded four local college students with \$2,000 scholarships this summer.

District Chairman, Charlie Buscaglia, presented the following students with checks and certificates of achievement:

Drew Hart, Manasquan, received the Neal W. Munch Scholarship. Drew is a student at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS).

Martin O'Hare, Cream Ridge, also a SEBS Rutgers student, received the Mac Clark Scholarship.

Matthew Mattia, Freehold Township, an agronomy student at Iowa State University, received the Bill Schauer Scholarship.

Kevin Soldo, Holmdel, is the recipient of the Freehold SCD scholarship and he is also a student at SEBS Rutgers.

2009 marks the 30th consecutive year that Freehold SCD has awarded scholarships to students from Middlesex and Monmouth Counties who major in conservation related fields.

Scholarships will be awarded in 2010 and applications will be available in December on our website at www.freeholdscd.org or by calling our office at 732-683-8500. All applicants must reside in Middlesex or Monmouth County.



2009 Scholarship Winners

(l-r) Matthew Mattia, Drew Hart, Martin O'Hare and Kevin Soldo received \$2,000 Scholarships from Freehold SCD

Photo Credit: Paul Califano

Staff News

Three members of the Freehold District staff received promotions to Senior Site Inspector, up from Site Inspector, this summer.

Courtney Davidson, a Cook College graduate, is responsible for the following municipal

inspection areas: Aberdeen, Allentown, Englishtown, Farmingdale, Howell, Manalapan and Upper Freehold.

Holly Posna, a graduate of Richard Stockton College, inspects E. Brunswick, Dunellen, Middlesex Borough, Milltown,

North Brunswick, Piscataway, South Brunswick and South River.

Brian Governale, a Johnson State Vermont graduate, inspects Carteret, Edison, Highland Park, Metuchen, South Plainfield and Woodbridge.



Trout in the Classroom

Over 700 young trout were released in approved waters this spring after eight months of nurturing by students and teachers, and by staff from two local environmental centers, as part of the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program.

Trout in the Classroom is a program designed to connect students to real-life water quality, fish and wildlife issues and inspires them to seek solutions. Raising fish, from eggs to their release, helps students gain a sense of stewardship for wildlife and natural resources.

The following participated in TIC this year:

Middlesex County

South River Middle School
St. Stanislaus Kostka School
Middlesex Co. Vocational HS
Voorhees Elementary
Warnsdorfer School
NJ Audubon Plainsboro Preserve

Monmouth County

Middletown High School South
St. Jerome School
Eisenhower Middle School
Allentown High School
Freehold Intermediate School

Greenville School
Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center

TIC Kit Available

Freehold SCD has one Trout in the Classroom kit available for the 2009-2010 school year. Interested teachers please contact our office at 732-683-8500 or email info@freeholdscd.org.

Construction Stormwater BMP Guide

A **Stormwater Best Management Practices Guide for Construction Sites** has been created to provide builders with a tool to aid in achieving compliance of the provisions of the New Jersey Statewide Stormwater Permitting Program.

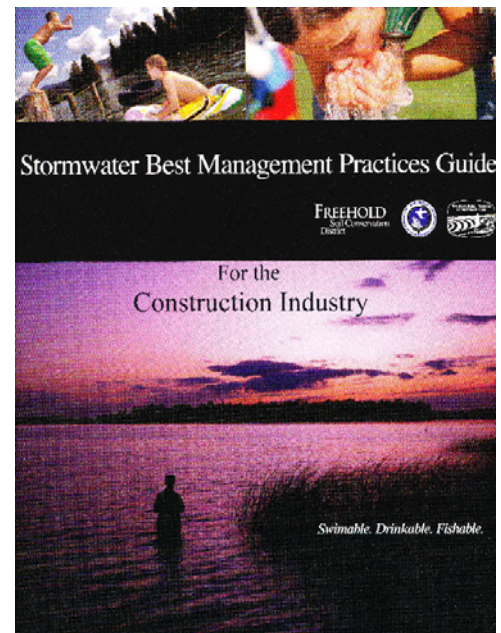
By installing and maintaining basic Best Management Practices (BMPs), construction site operators can do their share to protect New Jersey's water resources from the harmful effects of construction site stormwater runoff.

Active construction sites already have, or will receive, a copy of this user-friendly guide. District field staff will briefly explain the guide and

answer any questions to ensure this tool will be utilized as required by the NJ Stormwater Permitting Program.

Through use of this guide, the record keeping and inspection process is streamlined with the routine Inspection Sheet and the Annual Certification forms, which are provided in each copy.

The guide offers numerous BMP suggestions and tips for ease of implementation and also includes a Product Suppliers list that includes an extensive variety of erosion control vendors and products to aid in the completion of site work.



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**Serving Middlesex & Monmouth
Counties Over 70 Years**



Editor: Karen B. Rowe



Photo Contest Now Open

Freehold Soil Conservation District is looking for photographers to capture subjects promoting the beauty and uniqueness of the natural environments found in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. Wildlife, landscapes, natural resources, agriculture, waterscapes and conservation practices are all suitable subjects.

Contest Prizes

First Place: \$200

Second Place: \$100

Third Place: \$75

Call our office for the contest rules and entry form or download from our website at www.freeholdscd.org.

The contest is open to anyone 18 or older by September 30th.

- All photos must be taken in either Middlesex or Monmouth County. The photo location, landmark, town or address should be included with each entry.
- Photo sizes: 8"x10" or 8"x12" (color or black and white).

- Photos will not be returned.

Photos can be emailed to info@freeholdscd.org.

The contest deadline is September 30, 2009



Red Fox at Sandy Hook, by Ray Yeager, was the first place winner of the 2008 Freehold SCD Photo Contest