



Trout in the Classroom 2007

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Our inaugural year of Trout in the Classroom (TIC) was quite successful. To recap, we received applications from 22 interested teachers, but were limited to providing six with the necessary equipment. A full set-up, from tank to chiller (valued at \$1,000 each) was provided to: Fords Middle School, St. Stanislaus Kostka, South River Middle School, Communications High School, Summerfield School and Middletown High School South. We also hosted a tank in our office to educate developers, builders, engineers and residents about fragile trout habitat.

A clutch of 400 eggs was delivered to each location by Trout Unlimited volunteers in October. The hatching process was rather interesting as non-viable eggs had to be removed from the breeder net with an eyedropper. Once the egg sacks dissolved the young trout (fry) were free to move about the 30-gallon tanks and feeding began on an every-other-day schedule. At first the hatchlings hid between the rocks on the tank bottom, but soon were swimming around.

In January teachers submitted their mid-project reports. An average of 60+ trout had survived in each of the tanks and according to Brian Cowden, Trout Unlimited State Coordinator, this number of surviving trout is on par.

Student response to TIC was enthusiastic and Gayle Martinez, of South River Middle School, reported that her students “felt a sense of ownership and responsibility”

toward the fish. Students in each school completed lessons and activities such as: growth measurement; water cycle; anatomy; dissection; life cycle; creative writing; stream

ecology; art; journals; nonpoint source and point source pollution; aquaculture; and tested for pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and dissolved oxygen on a regular basis.

Everyone eagerly watched the growth and habits of the young trout. Many were dismayed to witness the cannibalism which is part of their life-cycle. When asked about TIC, and its’ impact on how they think environmentally, students quoted the following:

- “How delicate the trout ecosystem is and how we have to protect it”
- “I can help save the environment”
- “Even little changes in our behavior can help the environment”
- “Now we know that we need to keep roads clean to help keep water clean”
- “I learned that garbage that goes down the sewer can wind up in the river”

(See TIC continued on page 3)



Fords Middle School students test the water for pH levels. (Photo: Paul Califano)



Students from South River Middle School released trout they raised into the Toms River. (Photo: Holly Posna)

William “Bill” Schauer 1929-2007



Bill Schauer served on the Freehold SCD Board for 32 years.

The Freehold District suffered a personal loss with the unexpected passing of our Board Chairman, Bill Schauer, in September.

Bill had served on our Board for 32 years, following in the footsteps of his father, John, as Board member. Bill was appointed Chairman in 1985 and the District continued to thrive under his leadership.

Bill, of Monroe Township, was a life-long farmer who raised cattle, hogs, grain and potatoes. He was a 1950 graduate of Cook

College with a degree in agriculture. He retired after 40 years of service from Delco Battery in New Brunswick.

Bill was recognized by the NJ Association of Conservation Districts with the 1996 Outstanding Supervisor Award and by the NJ Conservation District Employees Association with the 2000 Employee Choice Award. He was on the Agway Board of Directors, was active in 4-H and AB Beef.

Our condolences go to Bill's wife, Barbara, and to the Schauer and Byrne families.

2008 Poster Contest: Water is Life

Students in grades 2 to 12 are invited to enter the 2008 NJ Conservation Poster Contest with the theme: “Water is Life.” Students can choose to explore and illustrate any water-related topic such as:

- ◆ Water in your everyday life
- ◆ Water cycle
- ◆ Sources of drinking water
- ◆ Groundwater
- ◆ Water resources
- ◆ Water conservation

- ◆ Watersheds
- ◆ Drought
- ◆ Flooding

Local Prizes

Freehold SCD will award \$100, \$75 and \$50 in prizes for each division, and all first place winning entries will be submitted for State level prize consideration and recognition.

Please contact our office for a contest entry form at 732-683-8500 or by email at info@freeholdscd.org.

2008 Envirothon for High School Students

The NJ Envirothon, to be held May 10th at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, is a dynamic, hands-on Environmental Education competition for high school students. Teams explore several natural resource related topics throughout the school year including: soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife and a current environmental issue.

Five-member teams that compete in the Envirothon will not only learn about natural resources, but about teamwork, how to

process information to reach decisions through consensus, and have the opportunity to meet with and learn from a wide range of professionals in environmentally related fields.

Somerset-Union SCD will host the 2008 Envirothon. For additional information contact Freehold SCD at 732-683-8500, NJ Envirothon Coordinator Rich Belcher at 609-292-5540, or visit www.njenvirothon.org. Registration deadline is March 3, 2008.

New for 2008

Freehold SCD is offering six \$100 grants to cover the Envirothon registration fee for new teams. Grants are awarded upon completion of the Envirothon. All new teams are encouraged to apply! Call Karen at (732) 683-8500 for details.

Buscaglia Named Outstanding Supervisor

Charlie Buscaglia has been awarded the 2007 Outstanding Supervisor Award from the NJ Association of Conservation Districts. This award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the conservation of natural resources in NJ and to the goals of the NJ Conservation Partnership.

Charlie joined the Freehold Board of Supervisors in 1991. He serves as our Vice-Chair, sits on the Scholarship Committee, is the District liaison to the Monmouth County Ag Development Board

and has helped expand out watershed and public education outreach efforts.

Charlie is an ex-captain of the Freehold First Aid Squad, is a 38-year member of Freehold Rotary and is a member of the Freehold Township Board of Fire Commissioners. For the past six years Charlie has volunteered at Open Door (an area food bank.)

Congratulations to Charlie for this fine achievement!

Years of Service

Several staff members were recognized by the NJ Association of Conservation Districts for Years of Service including:

Mike Hill	20 years
Ben Shotland	15 years
Tim Thomas	10 years
Steve Grosch	5 years
Sharon Robertson	5 years

TIC (continued from page 1)

In May, permits were secured from NJDEP and hundreds of young trout were released into the Manasquan River in Wall, the Toms River in Jackson, and the Black River in both Chester and Hacklebarney State Park.

Teachers reported the trout release was:

- “Such a rewarding experience that the kids applauded when the fish were released”
- “For many students this was their first trip to a State park, so it was a great way for them to explore nature”
- “It will be a memorable experience for us all”
- “The students were proud to be part of the whole TIC program”
- “Awesome!”

Approximately 665 students were reached with the 06-07 TIC program sponsored by Freehold SCD and 5,000 visitors have learned more about trout habitat through the tank and fish in our office.

TIC 2007-2008

TIC participants for 07-08 are:

- Fords Middle School***
- South River Middle School***
- St. Stanislaus School***
- Middlesex Co. Vocational Tech H.S.**
- Voorhees Elementary**
- Middletown High School South***
- St. Jerome School**
- Howell High School**
- Eisenhower Middle School**
- Allentown High School**
- Freehold Intermediate School**
- Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center**

Eggs will be delivered in mid October and then the fun begins!!

(*Returning school)

Trout in the Classroom was “such a rewarding experience that the kids applauded when the fish were released.”



Trout are transported in coolers to release sites that are permitted by NJDEP. (Photo: Paul Califano)

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*Stop by and see our 3-season
conservation haven garden!*

2007 Scholarships Awarded



(L-R) Katherine Smith, Morganville, and Anna Sweeney, Brielle, received \$1,500 scholarships from Freehold SCD. (Photo: Karen Rowe)

Three area college students were recently awarded \$1,500 scholarships by Freehold SCD.

Katherine Smith, a student at the University of Delaware, received the Neal W. Munch Scholarship. She is an animal science major.

Anna Sweeney, who attends Rutgers University School of Environmental Science as an environmental policy major received the Freehold SCD Scholarship.

Taryn Pittfield, though unable to attend the scholarship presentation, received the Mac Clark Scholarship. She also attends the School of Environmental Science as a natural resources conservation major.

District Supervisor, Charlie Buscaglia, presented the scholarship checks along with District Manager, Ines Grimm. 2007 marks the 28th consecutive year that Freehold SCD has awarded scholarships.

Scholarship awards for 2008 have been increased to \$2,000 each, and applications will be available on our website in December at www.freeholdscd.org