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Photo Contest Winners Chosen

Over 115 entries were submitted for the first annual Freehold Soil Conservation District Photo Contest and choosing the winning photos was very challenging as there were many quality photographs to judge. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$75 were awarded to the top three winners.

Winning Photos

First Place: “Manasquan Reservoir at Sunrise” by Howard Lamhut of Freehold

Second Place: “Sailboats of Morgan’s Creek” by Joseph Prusky of North Middletown

Third Place: “Smokin’ at Birch Creek Farm” by Sami Martin of Whiting
Honorable Mentions went to Glenna Rosenberg of Morganville for “Fall Pond” and to Ron Werth of Allentown for “Farmland Field.”

For the contest, photographers were asked to capture subjects that promote the beauty and uniqueness of natural environments found in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties.

Details and rules on the 2008 Photo Contest will be released by early summer. Please watch for the next issue of *Conservation Connection* or check our website at www.freeholdscd.org for upcoming photo contest information.



Two winners, (l-r) Sami Martin (third place) and Howard Lamhut (first place) with their entries for the Freehold SCD photo contest. (Photo: Paul Califano)

FSCD WEBSITE

We have launched our upgraded website at www.freeholdscd.org and encourage you to check it out.

The site includes all necessary forms for the Soil Erosion & Sediment Control program, information on our educational programs such as the Envirothon, outreach materials, Trout in the Classroom and more!

Entertaining in a Jersey Fresh Garden

Award Winning

The NJ Conservation Partnership garden earned three awards at the '08 NJ Flower Show.

1st Place: Most Educational Garden

1st Place: Most Ecologically & Environmentally Focused Garden

3rd Place: Excellence in Garden Design

Thank You!

Our thanks to Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown and Patterson Greenhouses in Freehold for plant forcing, to Pinelands Nursery, Columbus for the biologs used for the border and to Brookrest Farm, Marlboro for sod used in the Jersey Fresh Garden.

The New Jersey Conservation Partnership hosted a garden at the New Jersey Flower Show held at the NJ Convention Center in mid-February. "Entertaining in a Jersey Fresh Garden" was the theme of our display.

A fragrant herb garden filled with rosemary, sage, lavender, chives, parsley and mint and a vegetable garden bursting with vibrant red Jersey Fresh tomatoes and four varieties of peppers framed a paved patio, walkway and deck. The fist-sized tomatoes were a crowd pleaser

and our literature, which included information on drip irrigation, water conservation, integrated pest management, Jersey Fresh, NJ Conservation Districts and the Conservation Partnership, was quickly picked up by approximately 22,000 show visitors.

Thanks to all who worked on the display or took a shift at the show!

The Flower Show Committee: Ines Grimm, Karen Rowe, Bill Brash, Ernie Thurlow and Rich Belcher.



Large tomato plants (top left), bistro set on paved patio and walkway (top right) and show visitors gather informative literature from our display (bottom).

(Photos: Karen Rowe & Mike Hill)



33 Years Young: Soil Erosion Control Program

The New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program, Chapter 251 (SESC) will mark its 33rd anniversary in 2008.

A Little History

During the 1950's, 60's and early 70's New Jersey saw a rapid shift in land use. The Garden State was changing from a primarily agricultural and rural setting to non-agricultural venues such as home construction, industrial and commercial complexes and other land disturbing projects. These projects helped to accelerate the process of soil erosion and sediment loss throughout the State at an alarming rate. The soil loss resulted in sediment pollution in our waterways severely impacting aquatic environments, agriculture, recreation, wildlife and other natural resources. Sediment found its way to storm sewers and roadways. Dust and blowing soil presented health and safety issues as well as a general nuisance on both public and private property. Soil loss or sedimentation was proving to be a very serious form of pollution in need of control.

In response to this increasing threat to environmental quality, New Jersey passed the "Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, Chapter 251, Public Law 1975." Soil Conservation Districts were

charged with administering this program and, to date, 15 Districts are in place around the State.

Today's Districts

Anyone proposing a soil disturbing project, of 5,000 square feet or more, must submit plans to their local District for minimizing soil erosion and sediment loss. These plans are reviewed, and if found to be in accordance with the *New Jersey Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* technical requirements, the plans will be certified and approved for construction. The applicant is then required to follow the approved SESC plan. District personnel regularly inspect the sites during construction and will provide technical conservation assistance to assure the builder complies with their certified plan.

In response to growing concern of water quality, New Jersey's Soil Conservation Districts have become the primary local agency responsible for controlling non-point source pollution associated with construction. Soil Conservation Districts have been dedicated to the conservation of New Jersey's natural resources, especially soil and water, since 1938 and continue to work to ensure environmental resource quality for our citizens for years to come.

Landscaping Packet

We have updated our *Landscaping Education for Homeowners* packet that contains information on conservation practices that provide practical and positive contributions to water quality and wildlife habitat. Contact our office to receive a free packet.

Upcoming Events

April 11th:
Scholarship Applications due

April 25th:
Earth Day Fair @ Fort Monmouth

May 10th:
NJ Envirothon @ Duke Farms

May 22nd:
Conservation Education Awards Program

May 29th:
Trout Release Day @ FREC

Freehold SCD — by the numbers 1975-2007

- ◆ Acres of land within conservation compliance = 194,120
- ◆ Number of inspections performed by staff = 357,037
- ◆ Number of residents reached with educational outreach = 133,231 ('94-'07)
- ◆ Cost to taxpayers = \$0.00 as the District is a fee based agency

Freehold Soil Conservation District

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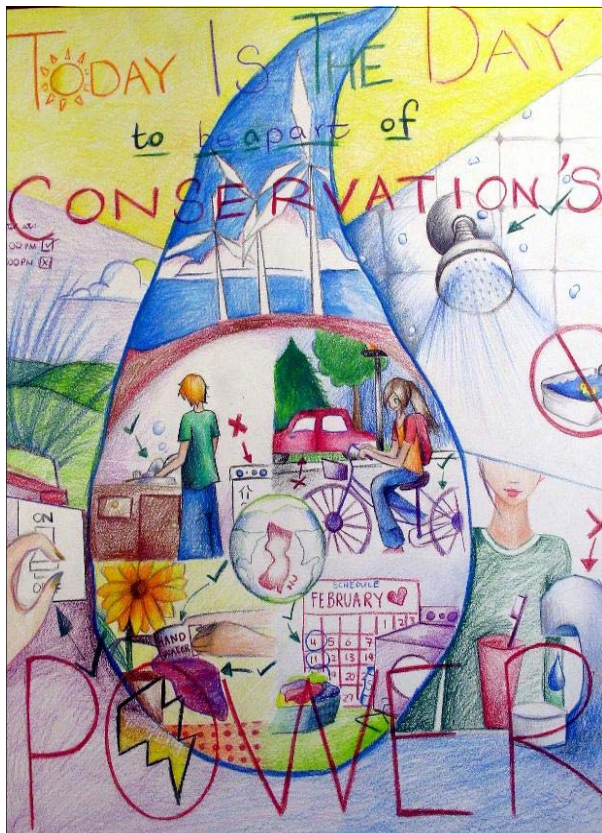
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*Serving Middlesex & Monmouth
Counties Since 1938*



Three \$2,000 Scholarships Available
The Munch, Clark and Schauer Scholarships will be awarded this summer to three area college students majoring in a conservation-related field.
All applicants must reside in Middlesex or Monmouth County.
Visit www.freeholdscd.org for an application. **Deadline: April 11th.**



National Poster Contest Winner

Juliana Wu, Holmdel, is a 2nd place winner in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest in the Grades 4-6 division. The contest theme:

“Conservation’s Power.”

Juliana, a student at the Indian Hill School, Holmdel, entered the Freehold SCD Conservation Poster Contest and was chosen as a first place winner. Her poster was then submitted for New Jersey Statewide competition where it was

again, chosen as a first place winner, and it was then submitted for National competition. The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides second through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations and agencies.

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