



# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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# Volunteers rally to clean up Union Township streams

Nearly four tons of trash removed at annual Raritan Headwaters event



Pictured above are members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1037, Boy Scout Troop 200, parents of Scouts, as well as members of the Township Committee and Environmental Commission (Photo credit: Michele McBride).

In 2012, over 500 members of Scout Troops, churches, community clubs, environmental commissions and businesses joined individuals and families for our 22nd Annual Stream Clean Up on Saturday, April 21st. In less than three hours, these volunteers pulled almost four tons of trash from stream banks at 23 different sites in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties. Along with items that everyone might expect would be found in and near the water – tangled fishing line, snack bar wrappers, and an occasional glove – the groups removed car tires (at one site alone, volunteers

gathered 21 tires!), a unicycle, a plastic swing, a refrigerator and even a golf cart from the waterways.

In Union Township, volunteers spent the day cleaning up trash along the Sidney Brook at Race Street. In previous years, our volunteers have generally worked on public lands, but this year the township contacted property owners from Route 513 to the Cozze property and were given permission to access the area between Race Street and the Brook. This area was selected because the Sidney Brook is a designated C-1 Trout Maintenance stream, and Race Street has

*(continued on page 4.)*

## UTEC Chair comments on FERC’s Transco pipeline Environmental Assessment Report

*By Chuck La Tournous*

*At the request of the Mayor and Township Committee, I and other members of the Environmental Commission conducted individual reviews of the Federal Environmental Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) environmental assessment of the proposed Transco pipe project.*

*My comments to the committee follow:*

The report itself points out that Transco has not demonstrated a need for increased capacity and that a number of commenters cite data that show the demand for natural gas in the United States is, in fact, declining. (An oversupply is a related problem that also argues against the need to build more capacity.) Transco’s main need as cited in the report (Section 1.4) seems to be that it has “entered into bidding agreements with shippers for the entire capacity of the project.” It flies in the face of reason to put a company’s poor contractual decisions above a project’s impact on the environment.

FERC “determines whether interstate natural gas transportation facilities are in the public convenience and necessity and, if so, grants a Certificate to construct and operate them.” Although the material reviewed shows the project may be in Transco’s convenience, no

*(continued on page 12.)*

# What you need to know— about NJ's new fertilizer law

## *New law includes the strictest fertilizer content standards in the nation*

Did you know that as of January 5, 2012, all lawn care professionals are required to be certified in order to apply fertilizer in New Jersey? It's part of the new fertilizer act signed into law by NJ Governor Chris Christie in 2011. The law sets the most restrictive fertilizer content standards in the nation for nitrogen and phosphorus. It also requires specific fertilizer application practices. The goal is to set standards and practices that will help reduce pollution from nutrients in all of New Jersey's waters.

Specifically, the law decreases the total amount of nitrogen in fertilizer and increases the amount of slow release nitrogen to 20 percent. In addition, it requires no phosphorus in fertilizer unless a soil test indicates it is needed.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus are nutrients required for plant growth. A limited amount of these nutrients is important for healthy plant life. An overabundance, however, not only can harm lawns, but when washed into our waterways, stimulates excessive algae and weed growth. This in turn depletes oxygen from the water and reduces the sunlight needed for healthy aquatic life.

Other key components of the new law include: the creation of a fertilizer

application certification program for professional fertilizer applicators and public education on correct fertilizer use.

containing phosphorus or nitrogen can not be applied within 25 feet of any water body except when applied with a drop spreader or targeted spray



*NJ's new fertilizer law could have a big impact on how you treat your lawn. (Photo credit: Rutgers University.)*

The timeframe for implementation of the law is:

**Phase I:** Effective immediately, fertilizer may not be applied from November 15 through March 1 by residential consumers and from December 1 through March 1 by professionals. Application of fertilizer is restricted during winter months when the ground is frozen and not able to be absorbed allowing it to be washed away when it rains. Fertilizer application is prohibited during – or just before – heavy rainfall, and on impervious ground. Fertilizer

– then the buffer may be reduced to 10 feet.

**Phase II:** Effective January 5, 2012, all professional applicators are required to undergo training and become certified through the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University. Rutgers University is in the process of developing the training program in consultation with the department's Healthy Lawns Healthy Water workgroup.

*(continued on page 9.)*

**FAQ**



Learn more at the Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Website:

[http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/  
NJfertilizerlawguide.html](http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/NJfertilizerlawguide.html)

# ANJEC Report: Planning for local solar development

*NJ is a leader in solar, but municipalities must make sure development is responsible*

By Sandy Batty, ANJEC Executive Director. Published with permission.

New Jersey is one of the most progressive states in the nation in encouraging the development of renewable energy. We rank second, behind only California, in the amount of installed solar power.

ANJEC has supported the State's aggressive policy that has achieved a dramatic increase in solar generation over the past decade. We have spoken in favor of State legislation, regulation and the Energy Master Plan that have provided incentives to encourage this industry. We also backed New Jersey's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that requires each electricity supplier and/or provider to provide 22.5% from renewable energy sources by 2021. To accomplish this, the state requires electricity suppliers to purchase solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) from people and companies generating solar power.

However, in the rush to create more solar power, developers have sometimes proposed massive installations that threaten our environment or consume farmlands. Recently, companies have proposed hundreds of large-scale solar installations involving thousands of acres of ground-mounted arrays in agricultural areas.

The Garden State does not need to sacrifice fertile acreage or convert environmentally critical lands to large-scale solar facilities. With over a half million acres of impervious surfaces in the state, we have more than enough rooftops, closed landfills and brownfield sites to accommodate

all our solar energy generation needs for the foreseeable future. Meeting the State's solar energy goal of 4,430MW by 2026 would require less than 7,680 acres (12 square miles) of total impervious space – and our densely developed state far exceeds that.

The new Solar Acceleration Law (S-1925) passed on July 23, stabilized

intent and purpose of the zone plan and zoning ordinance." (NJSA 40:55D-70d)

So it falls on the municipality to be clear in the intent and purpose of its planning and regulation. Master plans can identify where solar should and shouldn't be in the town. The master plan should have specific language on



*Solar energy's benefits must be balanced against its environmental impact. (Photo credit: ThinkGlobalGreen.org.)*

the market for SRECs in New Jersey. It also provided incentives to locate large solar facilities on landfills, brownfields and impervious surfaces and provided disincentives for farmland installations.

## **The municipal role**

Municipalities can use their planning and zoning to encourage solar

development in appropriate areas. Although the State Legislature passed an amendment to the Municipal Land Use Law that says that solar power is an inherently beneficial use, municipalities can deny an application if it creates "substantial detriment to the public good" or it "impairs the

its goals for solar, the permitted locations and the restrictions placed on it.

Environmental commissions can help by providing information on areas where large-scale solar development should be avoided. The environmental

resource inventory should contain information on the location of prime agricultural soils,

significant forests, wildlife habitat and other environmentally sensitive features. Zones allowing large-scale solar facilities should not include these areas.

With a sound basis in the master plan, the municipality can pass an ordinance *(continued on page 9.)*

**Union Township** implemented an ordinance addressing renewable energy resources such as solar power and wind generation. This ordinance includes siting, setback and screening requirements for solar projects.

# Union Township Guide to leaf and yard waste management

Tired of raking leaves? Just don't do it! Save your back, save money, improve your lawn and help the environment—all at the same time. Sound to good to be true? Read on.

By implementing some easy, creative solutions, we can enrich our soil, prevent water pollution, and become an even greener community.

## **Union Township does not pick up leaves and yard waste.**

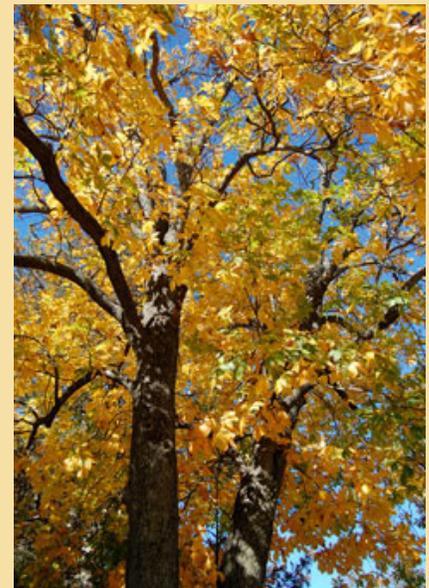
In order to keep our municipal taxes as low as possible, Union Township does not pick up leaves and/or other yard waste (tree branches, lawn clippings, etc.). Most of the independent waste haulers in our area will not pick them up, either, even if they are bagged and left with residential garbage. Do not

place yard waste along roads or in drainage ditches, as it becomes a road hazard, interferes with proper road drainage by blocking culverts, and dumps high nutrient levels into local streams.

## **Ways to recycle leaves and yard waste in your own yard**

Think of leaves and yard waste as an asset rather than a burden. Consider one of these simple procedures to benefit your soil and plants:

- The simplest thing to do is rake or blow leaves into a woodlot, if available. Break up twigs and branches into manageable size and add them to the leaves, where they will decompose over time.
- Use a mulching mower to allow nutrient-rich grass clippings to feed your lawn. Mow often enough to keep clippings short enough to filter through growing grass and not remain as a mat on top of the lawn. Research and experience indicate that only 1/3 of the grass length should be removed during mowing. Never allow the lawn grass to double its height between mowings. This



*Mulch, don't bag, to make yard waste work for the environment. (Photo credit: Chuck La Tournous)*

approach not only eliminates clipping collection and disposal problems, but also can contribute to improvement of the lawn.

- Mulch leaves with a mower so they can disappear back into the lawn. The fragmented leaves can also be raked onto lower beds as mulch—a technique particularly appropriate for owners of small lots. Though a mower with a mulching blade would be optimal, all power mowers should do an adequate job.

*(continued from page 1.)*

become a frequent commuter cut-through route when I-78 becomes congested. As he has in previous years, VJ DiRoberto coordinated this annual event for Union Township. In addition to the usual collections of cans and bottles, our volunteers collected a large number of tires (some still on rims), engine parts, construction debris, and a vintage Firestone tire sign.

*(This article was adapted from the Raritan Headwaters Association website.*

*For more information, visit [raritanheadwaters.org](http://raritanheadwaters.org).)*

## **Want to help preserve Union Township's environment for future generations?**

### **Get involved with the Union Township Environmental Commission:**

- Hike and study Union Township's streams, forests and grasslands
- Plan new walking, biking and riding trails
- Educate schools, groups and the public on environmental issues
- Write articles, press releases and meeting minutes
- Maintain wildlife sanctuaries within the township

UTEC needs volunteers with diverse skills. If you're interested in helping, contact [UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org). Find out more—come to our meetings, regularly scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. or visit [facebook.com/utec.hc](http://facebook.com/utec.hc)

# Where Can I Recycle That? *A guide to recycling resources for Union Township residents.*

Item Description	Recycling Location	Frequency	Comments
Glass Bottles (all colors)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled; plate/window glass is not accepted
Aluminum and Tin Cans	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Plastic Containers (#1-7)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Junk Mail	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Newspapers (Bundled in paper bags or tied)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
Cardboard Boxes (Break down or flatten)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Commingled
All of the above	Hunterdon County Recycling Depot (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale)	Every six months	Do not commingle. Call 908-236-9088 or check website.
Batteries (AAAA-D cell)	Household trash (County no longer accepts)		
Anti-freeze (Auto, used)	Patrick's Auto (79 Rt. 173) or County Hazardous Waste Day	County: Every six months	See County website for dates.
Asbestos pipe wrap	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	Dampen and double-wrap in plastic.
Batteries (Car, mower)	Home Depot or Lowe's		
Cell phones	Shop-Rite (Clinton)		They are recycled for our soldiers
Clothing	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.) Norton Church Thrift Shop (908-735-0177) Open Cupboard Food Pantry (908-730-7320)	24/7	Clothing container behind the municipal building benefits Pattenberg Fire Company
Electronics (Computers, monitors, speakers, TVs, DVD players, stereo equipment, home phones, etc.)	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	Bring to recycling dumpster in the back of the property.
Eyeglasses	Shop-Rite (Clinton)	24/7	Lions container in front of store
Fluorescent Lights (standard)	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Compact Fluorescent Lights	Home Depot		
Furniture in good condition	Donate to charity: Lord's Closet (908-534-1777) Salvation Army (800-449-9538)		
Grass clippings, tree branches, leaves and other yard waste	Your property		Township does not offer removal of these items; see "Union Township Guide to Leaf and Yard Waste Management" on township website
Herbicides	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Household cleanup items	Union Township Bulk Dumpster (Main St. behind old Municipal Bldg)	1st/3rd Saturdays 8-12 or until dumpster is full	Must present ID card issued by township. No construction debris. See township website for details
Household items in good condition	Norton Church Thrift Shop (908-735-0177) Open Cupboard Food Pantry (908-730-7320)	Saturday 8-12	Do not leave out front
Household trash and construction debris	Hunterdon County Recycling Depot (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale)	Mon-Fri 7-4:30; Saturdays 7-1	Fee based; call 908-236-9088 or check county website
Metals (Copper, steel, iron aluminum, etc.)	Union Township Bulk Dumpster (Main St. behind old Municipal Bldg) Hunterdon County Recycling Depot (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale)	Township: 1st/3rd Saturdays 8-12 or until dumpster is full. County: Mon-Fri 7-4:30; Saturdays 7-1	County is fee based; call 908-236-9088 or check county website
Motor oil (used)	Patrick's Auto (79 Rt. 173), Wal-Mart or County Hazardous Waste Day	County: Every six months	See County website for dates
Paint (oil-based)	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Paint (water-based)	Household Trash		Open can, let dry and dispose in trash
Pesticides	County Hazardous Waste Day	Every six months	See County website for dates
Plastic grocery bags	Shop-Rite (Clinton)		Stuff all bags into one and tie
Prescription drugs	Household Trash		Remove label and place in trash. DO NOT flush
Printer cartridges	Municipal Building (140 Perryville Ave.)	Saturday 8-12	
Refrigerators, freezers and other appliances	Union Twp Bulk Dumpster (Main St. behind old Municipal Bldg)		Township residents only; \$15 fee applies.
Tree branches and stumps	Your property		

Trash removal in Union Township is by private contract. Recycling is mandatory. The Recycling Depot is behind the Municipal Building and is open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m.-noon except for Holiday weekends. During snow/ice storms, the Recycling Depot will be closed. No leaves/brush can be picked up by the Township; residents are urged to recycle same on their property. No parking on Township roads during snow and/or ice storms. Tree, driveway and lighting ordinances are in effect. Dead deer may be reported to the Township Clerk. Dog licenses are available on the Township website and at the Municipal Building.



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# What you need to know— about stormwater pollution

The information in this article is reproduced courtesy of Clean Water NJ. For more information, tips and resources, visit their website at [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org).



Inadequate stormwater management can lead to damage to property and the environment. (Photo credit: Chuck La Tournous)

Water from rain and melting snow that flows over lawns, parking lots and streets is known as stormwater runoff. This water, which travels along gutters, into catch basins and through storm drain pipes and ditches, usually is not treated, but then flows or is discharged into local waterbodies. Along the way, the stormwater picks up trash (fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts, styrofoam cups, etc.) and toxins and other pollutants (gas, motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizers, pesticides and pet droppings). This polluted stormwater can kill fish and other wildlife, destroy wildlife habitat, contaminate drinking water sources and force the closing of beaches because of health threats to swimmers.

Human activity is largely responsible for the stormwater pollution. Everything that we put on the ground or into the storm drain can end up in our water. Each of us has a responsibility to make sure these contaminants stay out of our water. Whether we have clean water is up to you.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Stormwater Pollution

### 1. Where does stormwater go?

Stormwater flows directly into our rivers, lakes, streams and the ocean or into a stormwater system through a storm drain.

Storm drains are frequently located in parking lots and along the curbs of roadways. The grate that prevents

larger objects from flowing into the storm sewer system is called a catch basin. Once below ground, the stormwater flows through pipes, which lead to an outfall where the stormwater usually enters a stream, river or lake.

In some areas, the outfall may lead to a stormwater management basin. These basins control the flow and improve the quality of stormwater, depending on how they are designed. They can also recharge groundwater systems.

In some urban areas of the state, the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems may be combined. Here both stormwater and sewage from households and businesses travel together in the same pipes and are treated at sewage treatment plants except during heavy rains. During these occasions, both the stormwater and untreated sewage exceed the capacity of the treatment plant, and this overflow is directed into local waterways.

### 2. Why has stormwater runoff become such a problem?

Urbanization and increasing commercial and residential development have a great impact on local water resources. More impervious surfaces (roads, rooftops, parking lots and other hard surfaces that do not allow stormwater to soak into the ground) increase the rate of stormwater runoff. This means a greater volume of water carrying pollution into surface waters and less water soaking into the ground. These contaminants include litter; cigarette butts and other debris from sidewalks; motor oil poured into storm sewers; settled air pollutants; pet wastes; yard wastes; and pesticides and fertilizers (continued on page 9.)

# Aliens invade Union Township!

*Fight back with these tips for combating three common invasive species on your property*

**Multiflora Rose:** Multiflora Rose was introduced to the eastern US in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. In the 1930s, the US Soil Conservation Service promoted it for use in erosion control and as "living fences" to confine livestock. State conservation departments recommended multiflora rose as cover for wildlife. Its tenacious growth habit was eventually recognized as a problem on pastures and unplowed lands, where it disrupted cattle grazing. It is now designated a noxious weed in several states, including New Jersey.

Multiflora rose tolerates a wide range of conditions and is able to invade fields, forests, and wetlands. It grows aggressively and produces large numbers of fruits (hips) that are eaten and dispersed by a variety of birds. Dense thickets of multiflora rose exclude most native shrubs and herbs from establishing and may be detrimental to nesting of native birds.

Young plants can be pulled by gloved hands. Mature plants can be controlled through frequent, repeated cutting or mowing. Several contact and systemic herbicides are also effective in controlling multiflora rose. They can be carefully applied to cut stems to avoid harming neighboring beneficial plants.

**Garlic mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*):

Garlic mustard was first recorded in the US around 1868, on Long Island, and was likely introduced by settlers for food and medicinal purposes. In Union Township, it occurs in a wide



*Clockwise, from upper left: Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard, Autumn Olive. (Photo credit: National Park Service)*

range of habitats including roadsides, floodplains, and forest edges.

Garlic mustard is a biennial. First year plants appear as a rosette of kidney-shaped leaves that stay green throughout the winter; in its second year, the plants form a shoot which rapidly elongates and flowers in early spring. Garlic mustard invades areas disturbed by human activities and appears to be aided by white tailed deer that prefer to eat native wildflowers and leave garlic mustard untouched. Garlic mustard displaces many native spring wildflowers that occur in the same habitat.

Because garlic mustard seeds can survive for five or more years in the soil, effective management of garlic mustard requires a long term commitment. Hand removal of entire plants, including the roots, is effective for scattered infestations. Cutting flowering plants low to the ground in spring will prevent flowering and thus seed production. Several herbicides are also effective for its control. Once garlic mustard has been removed,

consider re-establishing native ground covers such as wild ginger, native ferns, foam flower or creeping phlox.

**Autumn Olive** (*Eleagnus embellata*): Autumn Olive was introduced into the US in 1830 and widely planted as an ornamental, for wildlife habitat, as windbreaks and to restore deforested and degraded lands. It is drought tolerant and thrives in a variety of conditions. This trait allows it to invade grasslands, fields, open woodlands and disturbed areas. It threatens native ecosystems by out-competing and displacing native plant species, creating dense shade and interfering with natural plant succession.

Autumn Olive is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 20 feet. Its stems and leaves have a dense covering of silvery to rusty scales. Small, light yellow aromatic flowers appear in June and fruits are small, round, pink to reddish. It mainly spreads through seed, and birds and mammals disperse the fruits. Do not plant autumn olive.

*(continued on page 11.)*

# Union Township Recycles!

*Our recycling depot makes it easy and convenient to reduce waste and preserve our rural landscape.*

Union Township is now in its fourth year of single stream recycling and our weekly recyclables volume continues to grow. The township recycling depot, located behind the municipal building at 140 Perryville Road, Jutland, is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon, and collects all recyclables in one dumpster at the depot. Our contract recycler sorts the recycling at a state-of-the-art facility, and the Union Township recycling depot accepts all glass, aluminum, tin, #1 through #7 plastics, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, and cardboard. You don't even have to separate materials you bring to the depot.

You can now include chip board, like cereal and pizza boxes, as long as they aren't contaminated by food debris and are not plastic coated. Even gift wrap and Christmas cards can be recycled if they don't contain metalized foil. Many plastic bags are now coded for recycling, too—but you must secure them within your recycling container (along with lightweight paper items) to keep them from blowing out of the dumpster on windy days. The best way to recycle plastic bags is to stuff them all into one plastic bag and tie it closed, or better yet, use reusable shopping bags that don't need to be recycled. Don't use plastic bags to deliver your recycling to the depot; they tend to split open and spill their contents. Use paper bags or reusable containers instead—they're stronger and won't blow away. Lastly, don't place more than 20-25 pounds of recycling into one container—it becomes a strain for our recycling attendants. We have a limited number of blue reusable 20 gallon recycling containers available at the depot for residents— just ask an attendant.

Recycling is mandatory in Union Township, as it is in all of New Jersey, and all residents need to do their part to meet our 50% recycling goal. Most solid waste transporters in our community including Raritan Valley Disposal, Smith Brothers Sanitation Service, and Waste Management offer curbside recycling within Union Township. This can be a convenient alternative to bringing your recycling to the municipal depot.

Our recycling depot accepts printer cartridges, but you must separate them from the rest of recycling and hand them to an attendant. (Batteries are no longer accepted by the county; they should be disposed of in your household trash.) You can also recycle used clothing at a collection bin at the recycling depot. Used clothing, sheets, blankets, and stuffed animals may be placed in the bin, with proceeds from the donation of these items returned to the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company. You can recycle used household items, books, clothing and small furnishings at the North Hunterdon United Methodist Church Thrift Shop at 51 Charlestown Road in Hampton (908 735-0177) or at the Open Cupboard Food Pantry Thrift Shop at 37 Old Highway 22 in Clinton (908 638-5773).

Even appliances can now be recycled through the township. Just bring them to the bulk dumpster behind the Historical Society building on Main St. (a \$15 fee applies.)

For information on items that can be recycled, check out our Guide to Recycling on page 5 or visit the Hunterdon County Recycling website, which lists recycling resources for even more items: [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste/recycling/links.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste/recycling/links.htm).



## Local Farm Directory

*Eat healthy, support our local economy and help the environment—all at the same time—by patronizing these local farms.*

### Harding's Willow Brook Farm

**Product Type:** Nursery

**Products:** Full-service garden center, gift shop, florist, topsoil and mulch, farm-grown mums in fall, Christmas trees and wreaths.

**Address:** 534 County Rd 614, Asbury NJ 08802

**Hours:** 8-6 daily, Easter-Christmas

**Email:** [deharding@hotmail.com](mailto:deharding@hotmail.com)

**Phone:** 908-735-6900

### Peaceful Valley Orchards

**Product Type:** Produce

**Products:** Apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, eggplant, sweet corn, pumpkins.

**Address:** 150 Pittstown Rd, Pittstown NJ 08867

**Hours:** check web site for hours of operation.

**Email:** [peacefulvalleyorchards1@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulvalleyorchards1@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 908-730-7748

**Website:** [www.peacefulvalleyorchards.com](http://www.peacefulvalleyorchards.com)

### Tradition Farms

**Product Type:** Produce

**Products:** 17 varieties of peaches, 30 varieties of apples, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, summer squash, cucumbers, winter squash, pumpkins, plums, green beans, sweet corn, onions, potatoes, fall ornamentals (call for product availability.)

**Address:** 465 County Rd 614 Asbury, NJ 08802

**Hours:** Mid July - 1st of Dec, M-F 12-7PM Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5

**Phone:** 908-730-8303

### White Winds Farm

**Product Type:** Produce and Eggs

**Products:** Eggs year round, quail eggs by request, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, raspberries in spring and summer, Asian pears, pumpkins and gourds available in the fall.

**Address:** 586 Main Street, Pattenburg NJ 08802

**Phone:** 908-735-4058

### Frace's Farm Stand

**Product Type:** Produce

**Address:** 583 County Route 579, Hampton, NJ 08827

**Phone:** 908-735-2534



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*(Fertilizer, continued from page 2.)*

**Phase III:** Effective January 5, 2013, all fertilizer product for turf must contain at least 20 percent slow-release nitrogen, and zero phosphorus unless a soil test demonstrates a need for more.

The Healthy Lawns Healthy Water workgroup was originally formed to address strategies to reduce phosphorus loads from fertilizer runoff to our waterways. In 2009, the Healthy Lawns Healthy Water workgroup received the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for working collaboratively with the state and voluntarily reducing the

content of phosphorus in fertilizer by 50%. This reduction resulted in a total annual phosphorus reduction of 171,770 pounds between the base year of 2006 and 2008. The Healthy Lawns Healthy Water workgroup will continue to work with the department to implement the various components of the new fertilizer law.

**Source:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection website: [www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater/)

**Online Bonus:** Read the FAQs at: [snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/fertilizerlawFAQ.html](http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/fertilizerlawFAQ.html)

*(Solar, continued from page 3.)*

to set the siting criteria for solar development. Particularly helpful is the conditional use ordinance, which enables a municipality to establish appropriate and reasonable conditions and standards. Conditional use regulation also increases the predictability of land use decisions.

ANJEC has developed a white paper that will give greater details on planning for major solar facilities and reviewing applications. We will send a copy of the paper to all environmental commissions this fall and post it on our website, at [www.anjec.org](http://www.anjec.org).

*(Stormwater, continued from page 6.)*

from lawn care. Less water soaking into the ground also lowers ground water levels, which can dry up streams and hurt stream ecosystems, and can reduce the supply of well water.

Stormwater also erodes stream banks. This in turn degrades habitat for plant and animal life that depend on clear water. Sediment in water clogs the gills of fish and blocks light needed for subsurface plants. The sediment can also fill in stream channels, lakes and reservoirs, covering the bottom and negatively affecting flow, plants and aquatic life.

### **3. How can I reduce runoff?**

There are inexpensive ways to control excess runoff created by patios, driveways, sidewalks and roofs. Whatever the soil drainage condition in your neighborhood, landscaping and careful grading of your property's surface area can be used to control runoff, reduce its speed and increase the time over which it is released. For

example, land immediately adjacent to your house needs to have a downhill slope so that water does not seep through the foundation. Once the water has been carried 10 feet from the house, the surface should be graded so that runoff is released gradually.

Surface runoff can be decreased and ground water infiltration increased by following these suggestions:

Install gravel trenches along driveways or patios to collect stormwater and filter it into the soil.

Plant sod on bare patches in your lawn as soon as possible to avoid erosion.

Grade all areas away from your house at a gentle slope.

Use a grass swale, which is a man-made depression, to move water from one area to another.

Plant shrubs and trees to promote infiltration (see chapter on lawn and garden care).

If you are building a new home or in a position to consider regrading your property, you may want to create a basin, which will hold all runoff and allow it to infiltrate the soil over a longer period of time. This should be done only where drainage is good. Alternatively, you may be able to create a gently rolling surface or a system of berms, or mounds, and swales to slow run-off. Berms and swales are slight elevations and depressions in the surface that provide channels along which water will flow. If you have a wet area, you may be able to move the basin to a less used area of the yard – around shrubs or trees, for example – by installing a swale to carry the water across the yard. Be advised that most activities performed in regulated wetlands require a permit. Contact DEP Land Use Regulation for information at (609) 292-0060. Plant trees and shrubs that thrive in wet soils in the new wet area.  
*(continued on page 10.)*

(Stormwater, continued from page 9.)

#### 4. What is an impervious surface?

One method of reducing stormwater runoff is to minimize the amount of impervious surfaces such as concrete sidewalks and asphalt driveways. Impervious surfaces do not allow runoff to seep into the ground. Use pervious surfaces instead. A paving surface that allows water to soak in may seem impossible, but there are many materials that provide the

durability of concrete while allowing rainwater to filter down into the ground. If you are planning a new patio, walkway or driveway, there are several attractive alternatives to concrete. Some examples of these needs are:

Wood or recycled material decks, usually installed for their functional good looks, can serve as a form of porous pavement. Redwood, cedar and treated pine are as durable as most nonporous surfaces such as

asphalt or concrete. Decking allows rainwater to soak into the ground beneath it, and the space between the planks provides ample room for precipitation to drain directly onto the soil surface. As long as minimal air space is maintained between the soil surface and the decking, wood rot can be minimized.

If you are installing a new patio or rebuilding a crumbling sidewalk, you do not need to use the typical slab concrete. Using bricks, interlocking pavers or flat stones (flagstone, bluestone or granite), you can construct an attractive, durable walkway. If placed on well-drained soil or on a sand or gravel bed, these modular pavers allow rainwater infiltration. Avoid using chemicals to control weeds growing in the joints between the pavers; Corsican mint or moss can crowd out weeds and add beauty to the paved area.

Pre-cast concrete lattice pavers also rest on a bed of sand and gravel and allow rain to soak slowly into the ground.

Dutch drains, which are containers of gravel with holes used to infiltrate water from rooftops directly into the ground, carry water from rain spouts into the soil, where it gradually filters into the ground.

These types of materials can be used wherever natural soil drainage is good and there are no problems with either bedrock near the surface or seasonal high water table.

Significant strides have also been made in the last few decades in developing porous asphalt pavement. This material is similar to conventional asphalt in durability, but it contains a much smaller percentage of very fine (continued on page 11.)

WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN,  
REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST  
FERTILIZING THE LAWN.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean.  
So what can you do? Follow the directions on the fertilizer bag,  
do not apply before it rains and use only when necessary.

[www.cleanwaterNJ.org](http://www.cleanwaterNJ.org)



Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

(Stormwater, continued from page 10.)

particles. As a result, the asphalt allows water to soak through into the soil below.

### 5. How can I landscape my yard in ways to reduce runoff and protect the environment?

Planting trees is one way to protect land and local streams from the damage caused by excessive runoff and erosion. Trees have long been appreciated for their beauty, but their help in minimizing erosion is not as well known. Landscaping by planting shrubs, trees and ground covers has definite environmental benefits and enhances the appearance and value of property. Realtors suggest that mature trees increase the value of homes as well as the speed of sale.

Plants and trees can create outdoor rooms where you and your family can work and play. Well-planned landscaping can reduce heating and cooling costs for your house by as much as 30 percent. New shrubs and trees may attract birds and wildlife. Trees, shrubs and ground cover also require less maintenance than grass. Because trees and shrubs require less fertilizer and fewer herbicides than grass, the chances of polluting streams is minimized.

Another possibility is landscaping for wildlife. By selecting appropriate plants, landscaping can both reduce water pollution and serve wildlife. Four basic elements are needed for wildlife: food, water, shelter and space. Food can be supplied through vegetation that provides seeds, nuts or berries. Water, if not available nearby as a stream or lake, can be provided as a small pool or pond. Vegetation, a pond or even a brush pile can serve as shelter, providing protection from predators and the weather. Space needs vary among wildlife but include enough room to reproduce, find food and carry on the different stages of their life cycle. The specifics depend on whether you are trying to attract a variety of wildlife or a certain species, such as butterflies or hummingbirds. (For more information, contact DEP Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.)

An environmentally sensitive landscape reduces the erosive force of rainwater runoff and increases the value of your home. By planting trees, shrubs and ground cover, you encourage excess rainwater to filter slowly into the soil instead of flowing directly into storm drains or nearby streams. Choosing trees and plants that are appropriate for your soil and

growing conditions will ensure that you will have a beautiful yard.

For more information on landscaping, see the chapter on Lawn and Garden Care.

### 6. What are some simple changes I can make to protect our waters?

By following these few simple guidelines, you can make your home more attractive and help prevent erosion:

Never dump motor oil, grass trimmings, leaves, animal waste or other pollutants into the roadway or stormwater catch basins.

Landscape your yard to minimize rainwater runoff.

Divert rain from paved surfaces onto grass to permit gradual infiltration.

Preserve the established trees in your neighborhood, which help minimize the damage caused by surface runoff.

Choose the appropriate plants, shrubs and trees for the soil in your yard; do not select plants that need lots of watering, which increases surface runoff.

Consult your local nursery or your county's Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office for advice on which plants, shrubs and trees will grow well in your yard.

(Invasive, continued from page 7.)

Individual young plants can be hand pulled, ensuring that roots are removed. Cutting, in combination with herbicide application, is effective. Hedges can be cut down using a rush-type mower, and stumps treated with a systemic herbicide like glyphosate

or triclopyr according to manufacturer's directions.

References: "Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas," National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "What the Heck is an Invasive Plant?" Jil M. Swearingen, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Center for Urban Ecology.

## This newsletter also comes in green (and blue and red and yellow...)

Get the Enhanced, Electronic version of this newsletter. It's better for the environment, costs less to produce and has cool features like hyperlinked navigation, full-color photos and more. You'll even get it faster than the paper version. Just send an email to [utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org) with the subject line "eNews" and you're all set!

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*(continued from page 1.)*

demonstration that the project is in the public's convenience, much less necessity, has been made.

It is disappointing to read the report's discussion of conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA), rather than a more thorough Environmental Impact Statement (or Study) (EIS). In the report, FERC explains that despite recommendations from commenters that an EIS be conducted, it made the determination that "the impacts associated with this Project can be sufficiently mitigated to support a finding of no significant impact and, thus, an EA is warranted." This is unfathomable given the enormous scope of this project, both in geographic terms and in its disruption of land, infrastructure and property. The project would install or "uprate" almost 40 miles of pipeline through large number of environmentally sensitive and preserved areas. Those areas would be excavated; vegetation, wildlife and their habitats would be impacted with the company's promise that they would be remediated at some future date.

That alone would seem to warrant more than a single report based on comments, promises and estimates, and call for a more thoughtful examination of the risks. How FERC can conclude that such a massive undertaking with years' worth of residual impact is of "no significant impact" is unimaginable.

Most of the environmental concerns raised by commenters, government officials and agencies seem to have been answered by assertions that the more stringent state or local regulations are superseded by federal regulations or that FERC has no jurisdiction to consider factors that might otherwise impact the project. This is especially concerning where the situation allows buffer requirements along sensitive areas to go ignored or weakened. In the case of Sidney Brook, Grandin Stream and its tributaries, Township studies show that the ecological value of these waterways is already stressed by factors such as rising temperatures, insufficient vegetation along buffers and turbidity -- all of which will unquestionably worsen should the project move forward. Whether mitigation after the fact can

sufficiently restore these areas to their pre-project state remains to be seen, but significant damage will be done in the meantime. The project will also undo much of the work that has recently been done to benefit these areas through grants, taxpayer funds and volunteer sweat equity.

Based on the significant environmental damage this project would cause, the uncertainty of the efficacy of remediation efforts to undo that damage and the dubious need for the increase in capacity the pipeline would produce, I continue to object to project as described and call on FERC to at the very least require a more thorough Environmental Impact Statement before allowing this project to proceed.

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The FERC assessment is available as a PDF at:  
[elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20120801-4001](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20120801-4001)

The response of Kimberly Bose, Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, to the assessment is also available as a PDF at:  
[www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/pdf/NorthEast\\_Supply\\_EA.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/pdf/NorthEast_Supply_EA.pdf)



### **About this newsletter...**

Union Township, like all municipalities in New Jersey, is required to provide information to residents on environmental subjects including stormwater management, recycling and grants. This newsletter fulfills that requirement. It was designed and written by township volunteers. If you are interested in advertising in our next newsletter, contact us at [UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:UTEC@uniontwp-hcnj.org). Residents can receive UTEC newsletters, important township news and other correspondence electronically by email rather than in print through snail mail. To request this service, send an email to [utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org](mailto:utec@uniontwp-hcnj.org) with UTEC EMAILS as the subject. Be sure to include your full name and address.