

**East Amwell Township
Environmental and Recycling
Newsletter**

Spring 2017



GREENFEST – Rescheduled to next year

**30th ANNUAL TOWNSHIP ROADSIDE CLEAN UP DAY
Saturday, April 22 (Snow Date April 23)**

Sign up to be a part of something big! On this day our community comes together to help clear litter from our beautiful roadsides. By volunteering to collect litter from the road of your choice you can make East Amwell a cleaner place! Take your collected trash to the Municipal parking lot and join us for lunch and conversation with other volunteers while gazing in wonder across the mass of litter accumulated through your collective effort. Please contact us at blaine.hummel@gmail.com or (609)466-2907 to confirm your choice or to be assigned a section of road. A limited supply of safety vests and trash pickers are available at the municipal building the week prior to the event. Please return them along with your trash.

Free Shred Day!

Hunterdon County will hold free Ident-a-shred Days from 9 a.m. – Noon behind the Historic Court House, 71 Main Street, Flemington, NJ on the following dates: April 1; May 6; September 9; October 7 and November 4. Look at the County Clerk's website for acceptable materials:
www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

April 29

For over twenty years each Spring, East Amwell has provided an opportunity for all residents to dispose of large items creating clutter in the attic, garage or yard. Join us at the Municipal parking lot: 8AM – Noon

We collect:

- *Junk – too large to fit in your weekly trash collection;
- *Appliances, no Freon-containing devices without certification of coolant removal;
- *Beat-up or damaged furniture;
- *Metals of all types, including residential machinery, ie: lawn mowers, weed whacker, etc.;
- *Tires – car and pickup truck sizes or smaller (More than 5 tires = \$2 each)

GOODWILL Accepts:

- *Books and movies
- *Clothing and shoes
- *Collectables and antiques
- *Computers, computer hardware, monitors and other electronics (working or broken)
- *Domestics: linens, curtains and bedding
- *Furniture, dressers and tables
- *Games, toys and sports equipment
- *Home decorations
- *House wares: dishes, glassware, lamps, kitchen utensils and other small appliances
- *TVs, VCRs, DVD players, radios, CD players and stereos (working or not)

A tax receipt for your donation is available from Goodwill.

Costs per load:

- Carload \$15
- Van/SUV \$25
- Pick up/Trailer \$35

Pay in advance at the township office or on site. Oversized loads will be priced at the discretion of the Township. For more information contact Maria at Mprendamano@eastamwelltownship.com

**151 Acres of Spectacular Forests and Fields Preserved
in East Amwell's Sourland Mountains**

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) in partnership with East Amwell Township acquired for conservation purposes 151 acres in the township's Sourland Mountains. NJCF's purchase on Feb. 28, 2017 for \$2.3 million was funded through New Jersey Green Acres Program grants to East Amwell and NJCF; Hunterdon County Open Space Trust grants to East Amwell, NJCF, Raritan Headwaters Assoc. and Hunterdon Land Trust; and the 1772 Foundation. No township funds are involved. Located off North Hill Road, the property contains farm fields and woodlands, with panoramic views of the Sourland region as well as the Amwell Valley. The land will be open to the public for passive recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, birding and nature observation. New Jersey Conservation Foundation, as owner, will manage the property. NJCF plans to create a trail system while continuing to lease the fields to a local farmer. An adjoining 270 acres of fields and woodland off Wertsville Road in East Amwell is under contract to NJCF for conservation purchase, with the same funding partners accessing state and county open space grant programs. An early 2018 closing is planned. Preserving these 421 contiguous acres that lie adjacent to Somerset County's 250 preserved acres in this region of the Sourland Mountains will help protect our water and air resources; insure the integrity and ecological value of the lands; benefit native plants, wildlife and endangered species; and provide for public access and enjoyment of nature to benefit residents' health.

- East Amwell Township Farmland & Open Space Committee -



Plant Swap - May 20th

The Township of East Amwell will once again sponsor a Plant Exchange. Residents are encouraged to bring potted perennials, annuals, shrubs and even houseplants to swap with neighbors. Last year over 700 plants changed hands and found new homes in East Amwell!

For each plant you donate, you will receive a voucher to select another plant of your choice. Participants are asked to please label pots with the plant name as well as other helpful information for fellow gardeners.

CLAWSON PARK 9AM to 11AM RAIN OR SHINE

For more information please contact Lisa at lsschulyer@aol.com

Rocky Brook Nature Trail under Construction

Three tributaries of Stony Brook converge at the Rte. 518 bridge, a few hundred feet east of Rte. 31. The eastern branch, known historically as Rocky Brook, rises in the Sourlands, heads west, crosses Stony Brook Rd. a little south of the Snydertown Rd. intersection, and curves southward to the confluence at Rte. 518. The NJ Green Acres program acquired a conservation easement on the 200-acre parcel encompassing a one-mile stretch of the brook about 20 years ago. A public access corridor along Rocky Brook was defined for the purpose of a trail.

When the Rte. 518 bridge was being rebuilt in 2012, Dick Ginman of Mountain Rd. persuaded the engineers to create a parking pull-off to provide access to the public corridor, improve parking for trout fishing, and to serve as a trailhead. Dick contacted the DEP and received a green light to proceed with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State of NJ and East Amwell Township for the construction and maintenance of a walking trail in the corridor. In March 2013 the Township submitted the MOA to the DEP. In the fall of 2015 a DEP staffer took interest in the project and shepherded it through the approval process. The MOA was agreed to by NJ and EAT in the spring of 2016. East Amwell is responsible for overseeing the construction and for the maintenance of the trail using volunteers.

Alan Hershey's D&R Greenway trail-building crew finished a trail along the Alexauken Creek last May. That crew, joined by some fresh volunteers from EAT, commenced work on the Rocky Brook Trail last September. The target completion date is May 2017. If you wish to participate in construction or maintenance, contact t.robbi@ieec.org.

The trail will include six stream crossings, all stone steps. It's particularly beautiful in early spring, when the ephemeral flowers are blooming. The northern stretch includes several picturesque waterfalls. There are many stone field and boundary walls to be seen, the remains of a dam for a historic grist mill, young forest, a patch of spruce forest, and many mature hardwoods near the streams and rock walls.

**NEWS FROM THE EAST AMWELL BOARD OF HEALTH
SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!**

It's time to think about Spring! Here's some suggestions from the Board of Health.

Warm weather means bugs! Mosquitos return and they spread serious diseases such as West Nile virus, equine encephalitis, Zika and even dog heart worm. You can do some easy things to reduce mosquito problems. Be sure windows and screens are in good shape to prevent entry. Mosquitos need standing water to breed so remove any standing water, such as old tires, open containers, and rain gutters. Replace water in bird baths weekly. Warm weather also brings out deer ticks which can cause Lyme disease, another serious illness. But these should not stop you from enjoying our beautiful forests and fields. Just dress appropriately and use repellants when in areas where mosquitos and ticks may be encountered.

Everyone in East Amwell has a septic system. You may never notice a slowly leaking toilet valve and it could damage your septic system. There are dye tablets available free at the township building that you can put in your toilet tank. If the toilet valve leaks you will see color in the bowl. It is also very important to have septic tanks pumped routinely. While tanks may be pumped anytime, spring is a good time to do this. Use a licensed septic pumping company that also inspects the tanks for damage. Replacing a septic system will be expensive so some preventive care is a good idea.

Spring is the time to spruce up lawns and landscaping. It is best to avoid chemicals if possible and to follow natural stewardship practices. If you do use fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals follow the recommended application amounts on the product packages and do not overdose your lawns and gardens. Excess chemicals are washed into streams and pollute the water and is bad for the plants, creatures in the streams and even the downstream communities that use river water for consumption. You may get more information from the County website at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html, the Township website at www.eastamwelltownship.com/board-of-health.html or contact the Township Board of Health at 908-782-8536 X13



SOCCKER

The South County Soccer League is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing recreation and travel soccer to southern Hunterdon County New Jersey. Based in Ringoes NJ, SCSL has been in operation for over fifteen years and provides micro, recreation, and travel soccer programs. SCSL serves the municipalities of East Amwell Township, West Amwell Township, and Lambertville City. Our league supports in the neighborhood of 250 to 300 players and play primarily in Hunterdon County. The league is an all volunteer effort and is staffed by local parents who enjoy supporting the program. Each season is typically 10 weeks long. Fall soccer starts just after the school year and runs to the week before Thanksgiving. The spring season begins in early April and ends mid-June. SCSL Spring 2017 Registration is now open. You can register at the following website: <http://scsl.leagueapps.com/leagues>. Here is the contact information: Amanda at AMANDA@deltasoftinc.com

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

43 Wertsville Road
Ringoes, NJ 08551
908-782-6464

KINDERGARTEN 2017-2018 REGISTRATION

East Amwell Township School is conducting Kindergarten Registration for all new students. Please call the school for an appointment. Forms, along with a birth certificate and proofs of residency, can be returned to the school at that time. A child who has reached age 5 on or before October 1, 2017 may register for the Kindergarten class of 2017-2018. Prospective student's parents can pick up registration and medical forms at the school office or call (908) 782-6464, Ext. 210, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

First graders who plan to enter the school must be age 6 on or before October 1, 2017. All of the above materials must be on file for these students as well.

2017 DOG LICENSES ARE LATE!!!

All dogs living in the Township for 10 days or more must be licensed. Puppies do not need to be licensed until seven months of age. If your dog is deceased or no longer living in East Amwell Township, please notify us at 908-782-8536 ext. 10 so we may update our records.

Your pet's license expires on January 31st of the new year, and state law requires that you obtain an annual license at the beginning of each year. The fee for a spayed/ neutered dog is \$12.00 and \$15.00 for non-spayed/ non-neutered dog. The rabies inoculation must be valid through November 1st of the licensing year. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to renew your dog's license during the months of January and February. Late fees apply beginning March 1st. Checks should be made payable to East Amwell Township. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (1 stamp for 1-2 licenses and 2 stamps for 3-4 licenses) and updated rabies information. You may also leave payment in the drop box located outside the front door of the municipal building. The late fee for any license not renewed in the month of January & February shall be an additional fee of \$25.00 per license. For free rabies clinics throughout Hunterdon County please call 908-788-1351 or visit www.co.hunterdon.nj.us and click on Environmental Health.



What's A Rain Garden and Why Should I Have One?

"When it rains it pours"...we've all heard that expression and perhaps have experienced the consequences of a little too much rain. With rain comes storm water runoff, which, when improperly or inadequately managed, can produce a number of very significant environmental and ecological problems such as:

- Flooding
- Stream erosion
- The mobilization and transport of pollutants
- Degraded water quality and compromised ecological functions of the receiving stream, river, wetland, lake or pond.

The most common response to runoff is to move it as quickly as possible from one's property downstream to someone else's property. But there is a better way of dealing with runoff....and this starts in our own yards. If you think of storm water as a waste, then the approach of moving runoff from your property as quickly as possible makes sense. But if you step back and think of storm water as a resource, then you'll want to retain or detain as much of it on your property for as long as possible. Doing so is beneficial both for you as well your downstream neighbors. A rain garden is a small footprint storm water best management practice (BMP) designed and constructed specifically to intercept storm water runoff and treat that runoff using techniques that mimic natural processes. These include:

- The filtering of runoff by the rain garden plants,
- The absorption and uptake of pollutants by the rain garden plants, and
- The recharge of runoff into the soils underlying the rain garden, thus decreasing both the rate and the volume of runoff leaving your property.

There is more to a rain garden than simply digging a hole and installing plants. For a rain garden to function in a capacity that positively manages storm water runoff, it needs to be properly constructed. It's not that difficult, but does require a little bit of planning. There are a number of guidance documents available to assist homeowners interested in constructing a rain garden. One of the best guides is available through Rutgers University: http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/RainGardenManualofNJ.html

The key to a successful rain garden begins with using the correct soil mix. A rain garden soil by design should be sandy and contain a fair amount of organic material. The former helps the planting bed drain, thus preventing standing water, while the latter promotes vibrant plant growth. Another 'up front' consideration is ensuring that the runoff directed into the rain garden does not erode the planting bed. Such erosion can be avoided by the placement of river rock at the point of the runoff's entry into the rain garden. In terms of plant material, you can be as creative as you like, but try to make use of warm season grasses, which are storm water 'work horses.' They filter and absorb pollutants and have deep penetrating roots that help promote storm water recharge and maintain the permeability of the rain garden soils. They are also very attractive. Along with these grasses think about introducing various pollinator attracting plants such as milkweed. Coneflower and Black-eyed Susan are other popular rain garden plants.

The bottom line is that rain gardens are a simple, easy to build and easy to maintain stormwater management BMP. Two rain gardens were recently constructed at Clawson Park as part of a large-scale NJDEP-funded project to improve stormwater management at the park and improve the water quality of Back Brook. These two rain gardens will work in concert with other BMPs that will be constructed at the park next year. You can build similar, but smaller rain gardens in your own back yard (or front yard). Rain gardens benefit both you and your neighbors by helping to reduce flooding, pollutant transport and ecological impact to surface and groundwater resources. So go on, think of stormwater as a resource, get creative and build your own rain garden. You'll be happy you did.

Prepared by Stephen Souza, Ph.D.

President, Princeton Hydro, LLC - <http://www.princetonhydro.com/>

PRESERVING OUR PAST

East Amwell Historical Society's Goal is to acquire pertinent artifacts of our history.

One of the Historical Society's goals is to acquire artifacts from our past before they are no longer available. We are looking for people to dig into their attics and unearth township memorabilia and donate it to the Society, where they will receive recognition for their generous donation. All donations will be inventoried, preserved and held until the Clawson House is completed where they will become part of a permanent collection. So far this year we have acquired old Ringoes milk bottles, original plans to the train station, post cards, old bill heads and a large cachet of memorabilia from the Black River and Western Railroad.

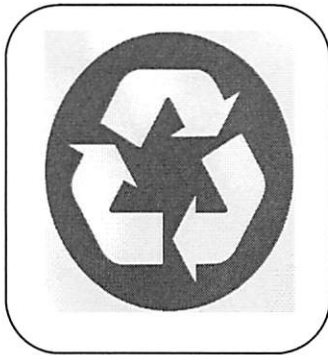
Get on our mailing list – Email us your email address and we will send you information of all of our exciting upcoming programs, trips, and tours. Email information to: chirichello@yahoo.com

Hope to see you at our next program.

EAST AMWELL RECYCLING DEPOT

First Saturday of every month
9am -12pm Municipal Parking Lot
We need volunteers for our Recycling
Depots!

It's a great experience!
Please contact Maria at:
Mprendamano@eastamwelltownship.com



Not Acceptable

Paper cans with steel ends
Plastic bags (bring to local supermarket)
Plastic furniture & flower pots
Packaging peanuts (take to UPS store)
Paper contaminated with food residue
Paper bags with plastic liners
Motor oil containers
Hazardous chemical containers
Window glass, mirrors, drinking glasses,
vases, etc.
Foil & Aluminum trays
Tissue paper

Batteries: disposable batteries go into the
regular trash. Home Depot or Lowes will
take rechargeable batteries or take to a
County Hazardous Waste day.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)
contain a small amount of mercury. EPA
recommends recycling unbroken bulbs at:
Ace Hardware, The Home Depot and
Lowes

Acceptable Materials

Newspaper
Junk mail, magazines
Office paper
Corrugated cardboard
Food/cereal boxes
Paper towel/toilet cores
Clean pizza boxes

Shredded paper (loose in
TRANSPARENT bags only)

Paper bags without plastic liners
Books with hard covers removed
Phone books

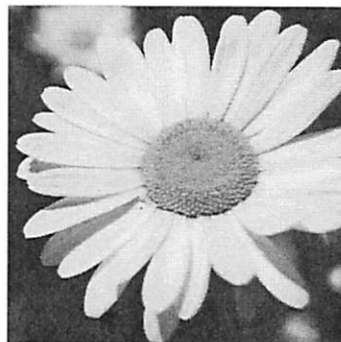
Plastic, metal and glass containers:
PLEASE rinse and remove caps and
lids

Plastic containers #1 - #7
All color plastic containers
including kitty litter buckets

Plastic lids with triangle #1 - #7
Steel lids from cans, bottles & jars
Glass bottles and jars – all colors
Aluminum and steel cans

Only during depot hours:
CDs and CD cases
Styrofoam egg cartons
Corks

Think Spring!



TerraCycle Program At the Depot

In support of the East Amwell
Environmental Club at the East Amwell
School we accept:

Personal Care Products:

Shampoo & Conditioner Bottles
Hair Spray bottles (non-aerosol)
Hair Gel, de-tangler bottles and tubes
Body / Face Was bottles and tubes
Soap Dispenser bottles
Lotion bottles (face, body, sunscreen)
Deodorant containers (non-aerosol)

Oral Care:

Toothpaste tubes/ bottle and packaging
Toothbrushes & their empty package
Floss Containers

Mouth Wash bottles

Cleaning Products:

Any spray bottle lid (not the bottle)
Chip Bags (all brands and sizes)
Foil Lined drink/ Food Pouches:

Capri sun

Honest Kids

Toddler / Baby food meals

Go-Go Squeeze

Beauty Products; (full or empty):

Lipstick, Lip gloss, Chapstick
Mascara tubes

Eyeshadow containers

Foundation/ concealer/ Bronzer

Nail polish and polish remover bottles

Solo cups:

Please rinse to prevent mold

Writing Instruments:

Mechanical pencils, pens, highlighters,
markers, Expo markers

Scotch Tape Dispensers:

All brands and condition

Cereal Bag Inserts:

Malt to Meal bags

Little bites Wrappers;

Foil Lined wrappers:

Energy, Granola, Protein and Diet bars

Electronics (working or broken):

Cell Phones

Digital Cameras/ Camcorders

IPods/Ipads

Tablets/ Kindles/ laptops/ E-Readers

Graphing Calculators

Ink Cartridges/ Toner Cartridges

TerraCycle pays the school's Environmental

Club for each of these items. With the
money raised from this program, the club
has been able to buy plants for the school
gardens, help attract native butterflies,
feed birds throughout the winter, buy
birdhouses so they have a place in the
Spring to raise their young, and last but not
least, educate the students and community
about recycling.

TerraCycle was founded by a Princeton
University freshman in 2001 to eliminate
waste by collecting hard-to-recycle waste
and converting it into over 1,500 different
products sold at various stores. Their
motto is to "Outsmart waste."

We hope you can help us to save precious
landfill space, promote education of
recycling, and provide plants and habitats
for wildlife.

East Amwell Township Environmental and Recycling



Newsletter



Spring 2017

April

- 1 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 22 ~~Greenhouse~~ & Roadside Clean-up day
- 25 Well water testing collection day
- 30 Spring Clean-up day

29

May

- 6 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 20 Plant Swap Clawson Park

July

- 1 Depot Day Municipal Building

June

- 3 Depot Day Municipal Building and
Hunterdon County Community
Day – 4H Fairgrounds
- 17 Sourland Music Festival

August

- 5 Depot Day Municipal Building
4H Fair
- 23-27

September

- 2 Depot Day Municipal Building

October

- 7 Depot Day Municipal Building

November

- 4 Depot Day Municipal Building

December

- 2 Depot Day Municipal Building
Remember to recycle your holiday gift
wrap and large Styrofoam packing
material. Trees can be brought to the
Grit yard.

“The best time to plant a tree
was twenty years ago. The
next best time is today.”

– Chinese Proverb

East Amwell Township
Recycling Committee
Environmental Commission
1070 Route 202
Ringoos, NJ 08551

STANDARD MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
FLEMINGTON, NJ
Permit No. 258

Spring 2017



Visit East Amwell at www.eastamwelltownship.com and sign up for notices and updates. Follow the Township on Facebook at Township of East Amwell, New Jersey.

Visit the Recycling page on the East Amwell website where you will find a wealth of resources, such as, where to recycle light bulbs, bicycles, refrigerators, or how to stop receiving telephone books and much more!

Landlords please share your newsletter with your tenants.