

# East Amwell Township Environmental and Recycling Newsletter

Spring 2016

## GREENFEST 2016

**GREENFEST 2016, has unfortunately been cancelled this year due to staff and volunteer limitations.**

This event which is sponsored by the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee (FOSPC) and the Environmental Commission will hopefully resurface next year in the Spring!

## ROADSIDE CLEAN UP DAY

April 16

Sign up to be a part of something big! On this day our community comes together to clean our beautiful roads. By volunteering to clean litter from the road of your choice you can make East Amwell a cleaner place! Pick a road and let Blaine Hummel know where you plan to clean. Take your collected trash to the municipal parking lot and you will receive lunch in exchange for your hard work. Please contact Blaine Hummel to volunteer: (609)466-2907. 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.

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

We all see the news about the mosquito borne Zika Virus. Mosquito also spread several other serious diseases such as West Nile virus, equine encephalitis and heart worm in dogs. Residents can take some measures to prevent mosquito problems. Be sure window/door screens are in good shape. Remove standing water as it provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Replace water in bird baths weekly. Dress appropriately and use repellents when outside in areas where you are likely to encounter mosquitoes.

Home owners like to spruce up their lawns in the spring with fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Follow the recommended application amounts on the product packages and do not overdose your lawn and garden. Excess chemicals do not do a better job and wind up being washed in to streams where they pollute the water. This is bad for our plants, creatures in our streams, and downstream communities that use river water for consumption.

Everyone in East Amwell has a septic system. It is important to have the septic tanks pumped routinely to prevent damage to the septic field. While tanks may be pumped anytime, the spring is a good time to do this. Use a licensed septic pumping company that also inspects the tanks for damage. Remember that replacing septic systems can be very expensive. For more information from the County: [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html) or from the Township: [www.eastamwelltownship.com/board-of-health.html](http://www.eastamwelltownship.com/board-of-health.html)

## SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

April 30

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@estamwelltownship.com](mailto:Mprendamano@estamwelltownship.com)

## EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP PLANT SWAP



### Plant Exchange Day May 21<sup>st</sup>

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 NOON RAIN OR SHINE

## HUNTERDON COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

MARCH 12, JULY 9 & NOVEMBER 12

## HUNTERDON COUNTY ELECTRONICS COLLECTION DAY

APRIL 9 & OCTOBER 8

## HUNTERDON COUNTY POPS (Paint, Oil, Propane & Smoke Detectors)

MAY 14 & SEPTEMBER 10

9AM to 1PM RAIN OR SHINE 314 State Route 12, Hunterdon County complex

For more information contact: Alan Johnson (908)788-1110

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/recycling/cleanup.html>

## News from FOSPC - HIGGINS PRESERVATION

### HIGGINS PRESERVATION

East Amwell joins New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) in preserving 152 acres of forested and agricultural land on the northeast slope of the Sourlands, east of North Hill Road. This is the first phase of NJCF's three-phase plan to preserve the 420 contiguous acres in East Amwell now owned by John Higgins. NJCF in partnership with Somerset County recently preserved Mr. Higgins' open space acreage in neighboring Hillsborough. Together these contiguous open spaces will total more than 1000 acres of forested wetlands, uplands and agricultural land in the Sourland Mountains. NJCF will assume ownership of the property in East Amwell. Somerset County owns the Hillsborough segment. NJCF will serve as the steward of the total preserved lands.

East Amwell Township's financial support of Phase 1 is provided by a NJ Green Acres grant of \$300,000, obtained with the assistance of D&R Greenway. Additional Green Acres funds are from grants awarded to NJCF and Raritan Headwaters Assoc. Hunterdon County, through its Open Space Trust Fund, is providing 50% matching support of the Green Acres grants. NJCF has secured a \$1M donation from a private foundation, in addition to proceeds from a dedicated capital campaign currently underway.

The objectives of this project are to 1) enhance and safeguard the integrity and value of existing preserved lands, 2) protect our natural resources such as air and water quality, 3) provide for the public's access to and enjoyment of nature, and 4) to preserve and manage the land so that native plants and wildlife as well as threatened or endangered species may thrive.

The Sourlands span municipal and county boundaries and are recognized as the largest intact forest in central New Jersey. The property connects the Sourland ridge to the Amwell Valley, an expanse of open land that exemplifies Hunterdon County's investment in agricultural preservation.

## NEWS FROM THE EAST AMWELL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



The Use of Easements for Land Preservation in East Amwell

In East Amwell, we are fortunate to live in a community that values a quality of life associated with the preservation of lands for agriculture, conservation, historic and recreation purposes. To this end, over 40% of Township has been permanently preserved through the direct purchase of lands and the acquisition of easements.

Easements are legal agreements that restrict the use of lands and have been an integral part of the preservation effort in New Jersey for several decades. They are typically held by municipalities, counties, the state, or nonprofit organizations to fulfill preservation objectives on behalf of the public. Some easements provide an extra layer of protection on public lands, such as parks and wildlife preserves, from being used for anything but their stated purposes. However, most easements are acquired on privately owned lands.

For easements on private property, the land remains in private ownership but must be maintained according to the agreed upon terms of the easement. These terms transfer to all subsequent property owners. For most easement acquisitions, property owners are usually compensated through payments and property tax abatements.

The most prevalent type of easement in East Amwell is for farmland preservation. These are agreements in which farm owners are compensated for protecting their agricultural resources. This applies to croplands, pasturelands, horticultural lands, dairies, equestrian facilities, vineyards, etc. As a public benefit, this helps preserve the community's agricultural legacy along with historic and scenic resources.

There are also many conservation easements throughout the Township. Their purpose is to protect natural resources including wildlife habitat and a diverse range of landscape features. The sustainability of wildlife populations depends upon the preservation of a variety of habitats for shelter, food and breeding. Water, wetlands, grasslands provide these habitats, including those that support threatened and endangered species. People also depend on these natural resources to provide clean air, water and recreational opportunities including bird watching, hunting and fishing.

More information about easements and the work of the Township Environmental Commission, Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee, and Historic Preservation Committee can be found at

<http://www.eastamwelltownship.com/boards-committees.html>.

Recreation and historic preservation easements can also be found in East Amwell. Recreation easements allow for development of facilities for passive and active recreation such as hiking, cycling, horseback riding and athletics. Historic preservation easements protect historic sites and other cultural resources that connect us to our past.



## **SOCCER**

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 2016 Registration is now open. You can register at the following website: <http://scsl.leagueapps.com/leagues>. Here is the contact information: Regina Skrebel (SCSL President) Phone: 908-310-9052 Email: [rskrebel.scsl@gmail.com](mailto:rskrebel.scsl@gmail.com)

### **East Amwell Historical Society**

As 2016 begins the EA Historical Society is moving into high gear with new programs, a new website, and new enthusiasm for continued restoration of the Clawson House. We recently established a website [eastamwellhistory.org](http://eastamwellhistory.org) which will keep you informed of all the upcoming programs we have as well as links to East Amwell Historic photos, an EA trivia page and links to the Clawson House.

Our programs this year include a talk on "The Dark Side of the Sourlands", about the grisly murders that have taken place there as well as the illegal bootlegging operations. Local resident John Allen is presenting a program on "Mapping the Revolutionary War in New Jersey"; there will be a bus tour of East Amwell Churches and another of the historic sites in the Township. And don't forget our always sold out Fourth Annual Historic Holiday House Tour in December. Please follow us on our website or on Facebook.

With renewed energy we are hoping to start and finish Phase III of renovations to the Clawson House. These renovations include rebuilding a new front porch, adding a new addition which will include a rear handicapped accessible entrance, a new kitchen and bath; and finishing the remaining rear of the old house to include new windows, a new door and siding. If funding permits we would also like to work on the inside and remove the antique flooring, level the floors, add new plywood and reinstall the antique flooring. It is estimated that all of the above work will cost around \$150,000. With monies coming from the Township, various grants and from the Historical Society, we feel this is a reachable goal.

The Clawson House is special. It is slowly rising from the ashes to become a community center, a Township Historical Museum and headquarters for the Historical Society. This year we will be reaching out to the community to help us fund renovations. So save your money – we will need you to help us. For people who did not see the house when we opened it last October we will again be opening it this spring on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. For those who did see the house, come again because since your visit we finished Phase II, renovations to the basement and adding electric to the building.

### **2016 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us) and click on Environmental Health





## What's New in the Sourlands?

By Caroline Katmann  
Executive Director  
Sourland Conservancy  
[director@sourland.org](mailto:director@sourland.org)

The most frequently asked question the Sourland Conservancy receives about the Sourland region is, "Do you have any trail maps?" The answer is YES! Clear, comprehensive and aesthetically pleasing trail maps are available to expand and enhance hiking experiences in the Sourlands. These maps are available on the Resources page of the Conservancy's website, [www.sourland.org](http://www.sourland.org).

Hiking with a buddy or two on a quiet Sourland trail is highly recommended but for those times when you're in the mood for a more social and educational experience, join us for our FREE Sourland Conservancy-sponsored guided hikes. For more information about *Hiking the Sourlands*, visit the Events page of [www.sourland.org](http://www.sourland.org); if you have any questions or to register send an email to [lcleveland@sourland.org](mailto:lcleveland@sourland.org).

**What else is happening in the Sourlands, you ask? Save the date for the Sourland Conservancy's Signature Events:**

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sourland Music Festival – Saturday, July 23, 2016 (rain date: July 24<sup>th</sup>)
- The Fifth Annual Sourland Spectacular cycling event – Saturday, September 10, 2016 (rain or shine)

**Coming this summer and fall is our popular Train Station Series.** This year, our series of Sourland Mountain-inspired educational and cultural programs will offer a variety of presentations related to Sourland history as well as other topics. For a complete list of presentations, please visit the Events page of [www.Sourland.org](http://www.Sourland.org). Registration is free (we suggest a \$5 donation at the door) and advance registration is not required.

**Remember the Rain** and join us as we partner with Mercer County Park Naturalist, Jenn Rogers, to help Sourland frogs and salamanders during this year's amphibian migration in early spring. For more information about *Remember the Rain* and *Sourland Stewards*, our stewardship program for Sourland residents, visit the Sourland Stewards page on our website.

We hope you will join us on Sourland trails and elsewhere, as we celebrate the Sourland Conservancy's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016!

**The Sourland Conservancy's has been working to protect the ecological integrity, historic resources and special character of the Sourland Mountain region since 1986. Please contact us at [director@sourland.org](mailto:director@sourland.org) for volunteer opportunities, information about our programs and events, or to become a member. Your support will help us Save the Sourlands!**

## 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](mailto:chirichello@yahoo.com)

## 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 sign up at:

[http://www2.mysignup.com/ea\\_monthly\\_depot](http://www2.mysignup.com/ea_monthly_depot)



## 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 in 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:

Cell phones  
Laptops  
Digital Cameras  
MP3 Players  
Ink Jet Cartridges and Toner  
Drink pouches  
Energy bar wrappers  
Gum packaging  
Writing instruments, pens, markers,  
highlighters  
Scotch tape dispensers  
Elmer's Glue  
Neosporin tubes  
Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes  
Beauty items (lipstick, mascara, nail  
polish, hand soap dispensers,  
shampoo and conditioner  
containers)

**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 2016

## April

- 2 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 9 County Electronics collection day
- 16 Roadside Clean-up day
- 30 Spring Clean-up day

## May

- 7 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 14 POPS County Collection day  
Paint, Oil, Propane & Smoke  
Alarms
- 21 Plant Swap Clawson Park

## July

- 2 Depot Day Municipal  
Building
- 9 County Hazardous  
Waste
- 23 Sourland Music  
Festival

## June

- 4 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 13 Hunterdon County Community  
Day at the 4H Fairgrounds

## August

- 6 Depot Day Municipal  
Building
- 24-28 County 4H Fair

## September

- 3 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 10 POPS County Collection Day, Paint, Oil,  
Propane & Smoke Alarms

## October

- 1 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 8 County Electronics Collection

## November

- 5 Depot Day Municipal Building
- 12 County Hazardous Waste

## December

- 3 Depot Day Municipal  
Building

**Remember to recycle your holiday gift wrap and large Styrofoam packing material. Trees can be brought to the Grit yard.**

"I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes. In wilderness I sense the miracle of life, and behind it our scientific accomplishments fade to trivia. Real freedom lies in wildness, not in civilization."

— Charles A. Lindbergh

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

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

Spring 2016



Visit East Amwell at [www.eastamwelltownship.com](http://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!

Follow the recycling journey of many items:

<http://www.iwanttoberecycled.org/journey>

**Landlords please share your newsletter with your tenants.**