

Donald W. Hamer, Recipient of the 2016 Northeast Region Individual Volunteer Award

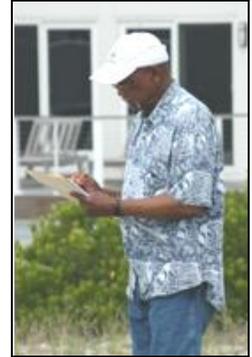
Donald W. Hamer was a long time employee of the Cape May Plant Materials Center since its inception in 1965. Don served as a supervisor of the District from 2007 to 2011, and continues to serve on the Supervisor Nominating Committee.

Don enjoyed a 30 year career at the Cape May Plant Materials Center until his retirement in

production field on the Cape May Plant Center.

In September 2015 at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Cape May PMC, it was

announced that a future sea oats release would be named in his honor, Hamer Germplasm Sea Oats.



USDA NRCS

Don was recognized for his volunteer efforts at a District monthly meeting, being awarded a plaque by State Conservationist Carrie Lindig.



USDA NRCS

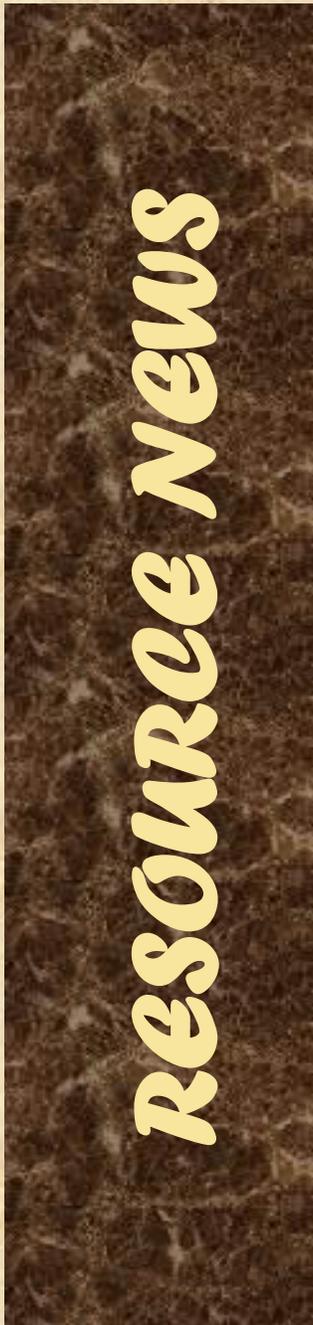
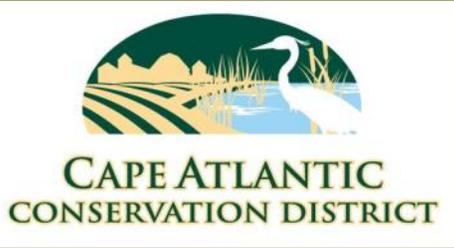
1994 and served as Manager from 1985-1994. After retiring (minus a few years hiatus), Don continued the Center's work on developing a cold tolerant selection of sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) that could survive winters in the northern Mid-Atlantic states.

Don was instrumental in collecting seed, propagating plants, evaluating the success of the field plantings and helping with establishing a new sea oats



Cape Atlantic District

Don Hamer receives the Northeast Earth Tem Individual Volunteer plaque from State Conservationist Carrie Lindig



Inside this Issue

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Maxmillian sunflower

- District Events pg. 2
- Education Outreach..... pg. 3
- Backyard Conservation/Soil Health..... pg. 3
- In Partnershippg. 5
- Last Word..... pg. 6

Permit Extension Act Terminated

By Michael Kent, Assistant Manager,
Cape Atlantic Conservation District

The Permit Extension Act, N.J.S.A 40:550-136.1 et seq., which became effective on September 5, 2008 and automatically extended most government agency approvals, has been terminated effective June 30, 2017. Any Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certifications effected by the Permit Extension Act will need to be recertified by the District or they will expire.

Applicants who wish to recertify their Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification for an additional period of 3.5 years may do so by completing the [Standard Request for](#)

[Recertification](#) form and a new [Application for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification](#). Once the completed forms are received by the District, an audit of the project will be performed. Additional fees may be required in accordance with the State Soil Conservation Committee approved District fee schedule.

Any construction activity on a project with an expired Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification shall be deemed a violation and a Stop Construction Order shall be issued by the District in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4:24-47 and N.J.A.C. 2:90-1.13 (d) and (e).

For additional information or questions, please contact the District office at 609-625-3144.



6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Busy Spring for District Outreach

Spring is the beginning of the busy season for the District's outreach programs in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Two Earth Day celebrations in April, on back to back weekend days, kept District staff plenty busy. The Cape May County event was well attended, despite cool, wet weather. Along with a table top display with backyard conservation material, children visiting our station made soil profiles and planted flower seeds. The next day, District staff turned around and staffed the backyard



display at the Atlantic County Earth Day event. The change in weather brought approximately 8,000 people to the event, according to the [ACUA](#).

Flower packets along with backyard and soil



health information were available for visitors to the display.

The NJ Association of Conservation District's soil tunnel was utilized at two large school-wide events. The [Catawba Project's](#) water festival in Egg Harbor Township was in May and Galloway's [Nature Fest](#) took place in June. Both events are a hands-on outdoor classroom program. Middle and elementary students explored the mysteries, functions and living ecosystem of soil as they walked through and around the tunnel while engaged in a scavenger hunt.

Cape Atlantic Conservation District

Cedar Creek High Takes First Place at NJ Envirothon

“We Won!” That was the message sent by teacher/team advisor Ed Martino on May 13th after Cedar Creek High School team #2 took first place at the 2017 NJ Envirothon. Less than 3 points separated the first place team from Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science team #1 who placed second. Cedar Creek had been advancing up the list for the past 6 years and with some extra effort on their part, along with coaching from

Cape Atlantic District



Cedar Creek High School teacher Ed Martino, Riley Blankenship, 17, of Galloway, Laurel Worth, 18, of Galloway Township, Patrick Elkner, 18, of Mays Landing, Tim Meineke, 18, of Galloway, Owen Mehler, 17, of Port Republic and Cedar Creek High School teacher Lisa Martinelli at the awards ceremony in Trenton.

teachers Ed Martino Lisa Martinelli, the team accomplished what they had been working so hard for; the chance to represent NJ at the North American Envirothon.

They will be heading to Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland July 23, competing against teams of students from across North America.

29 teams participated in this year's event, which was held at Schooley's Mountain Park in Washington Township. Although it was a rainy, cool day, the students and staff persevered through

the day and should be commended for a job well done.

Final scores for all Envirothon teams can be found [here](#).

Your Conservation Tip of the Season

BACKYARD CONSERVATION

It'll grow on you.



Water Conservation

Wise use of water for garden and lawn waterings not only helps protect the environment, but saves money and provides for optimum growing conditions. Simple ways of reducing the amount of water used for irrigation include growing xeriphytic species (plants that are adapted to dry mulching,

adding water retaining organic matter to the soil, and installing wind-breaks and fences to slow winds and reduce evapotranspiration. Watering in the early morning before the sun is intense helps reduce the water lost from evaporation. Installing rain gutters and collecting water from downspouts to use in gardens can also reduce water use. Trickle irrigation and drip irrigation systems help reduce water use and meet the needs of plants. With these methods, very small amounts of water are

supplied to the base of the plants. Water is placed where it will do the most good, rather than sprayed over the entire garden. For more information on water conservation, visit the [District's website](#).

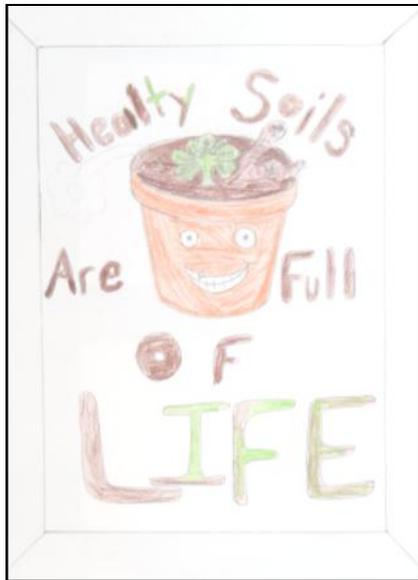


Ron Nichols, USDA

Conservation Poster Contest Results

First Place

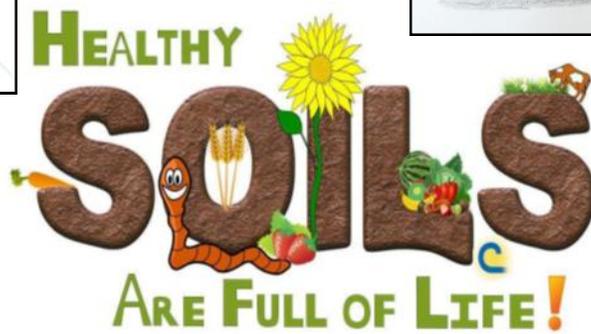
Nathan Ranger
William Davies Middle School
Mays Landing



Grades 4-6

Second Place

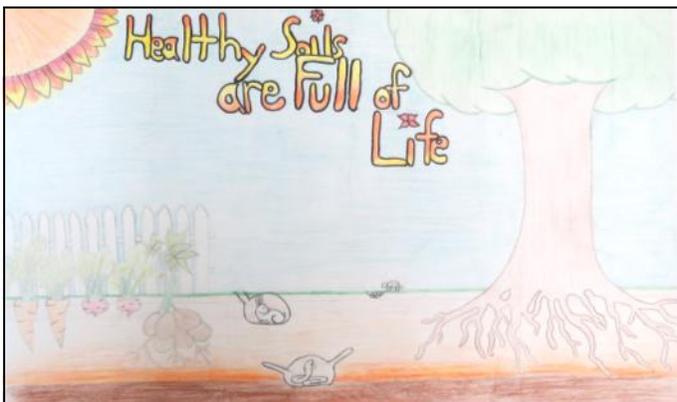
Vanessa Lee
William Davies Middle School
Mays Landing



Grades 7-9

First Place

Jake Truex Lindia
Atlantic County Institute
of Technology
Mays Landing



Second Place

Andrew Christopher Matachett
William Davies Middle
Mays Landing



In Partnership



New Strain of Corn in Development

By Jenny Carleo, Rutgers Agricultural and Resource Management Agent

Jenny has been collaborating with the USDA Plant Materials Center to test a strain of corn bred by Cape May County Farmer, Jack Sayre. Jenny and her colleagues Dr. Zane Helsel, Dr. Tom Orton and Dr. Brad Hillman are growing the corn organically at a Rutgers research farm to further develop the seed and compare it to a standard organic hybrid. The corn has been selected since



Jenny Carleo, Rutgers University

1978 by Jack for both drought tolerance and bird resistance. He chose the name Landseair (pronounced “land-sea-air”) because his farm is “where the

land and sea air meet”. The hope is that this strain will become a new, organic variety of field corn that would be beneficial to farmers in drought prone areas.

Jenny Carleo
County Agent II
609-465-5115 x607; 845-641-2609
Ko@rutgers.edu



NRCS to Host South Jersey Local Working Group Meeting August 7th

By Nicholas Saumweber, District Conservationist, NRCS Vineland Center and Barbara Phillips, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

Want to have a say in how agricultural conservation projects are prioritized in South Jersey? Have a particular environmental resource concern that you want to discuss? NRCS is hosting the first of several South Jersey (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties) Local Working Groups to try and identify the top agricultural resource concerns in our region in an attempt to target funding decisions to address the top needs of your community.

State Conservationist Carrie Lindig has initiated an effort to gather input from local

stakeholders about how USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can most effectively deliver conservation assistance in New Jersey. Through these Work Groups, NRCS aims to gather recommendations on local natural resource priorities. These discussions will help direct USDA conservation activities and programs that will coordinate with other Federal, State, tribal, and local conservation programs. This will help provide a coordinated effort to address conservation concerns specific to the local area.

Convened by Nicholas Saumweber, District Conservationist of the Vineland Service Center and Mona Peterson, District Conservationist

of the Woodstown Service Center, the local work group responsibilities include:

- Identifying the biggest conservation needs in our counties;
- Prioritizing those conservation needs that can be addressed by USDA programs;
- Assisting NRCS with public outreach and information efforts.

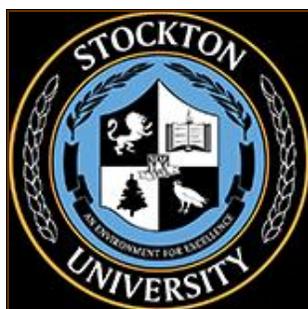
NRCS is seeking a diverse membership from the local community with agricultural interests and an understanding of existing natural resource issues. Farmers, conservation partners, and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.

continued on page 6, Working Group

Welcome Our New Interns

Every semester the Cape Atlantic Conservation District takes on two new ospreys from Stockton University's School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics. The District has an on-going internship program, allowing interested Stockton students to intern at the District.

The internship is a great opportunity for students to get hands on work experience as well as fulfill a requirement needed by the students before graduating.



Georgie Grieb

Georgie Grieb, a senior at Stockton University, will graduate with a B.S. in Environmental Science in May 2018. "Being an...intern for the District will allow me to gain more experience in the field and continue with the GIS Mapping". Georgie's love for the outdoors made her want to pursue a career in environmental science, as demonstrated by her other internships and interests outside the Stockton classroom.



Megan Jones

Megan Jones is a South Jersey native and a senior at Stockton University pursuing her B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Geology. She enjoys horseback riding, gardening, and hiking. She plans to continue her studies in either Soil Science or Environmental Microbiology after graduating from Stockton in May 2018. Megan is a member of the Stockton Action Volunteers for the Environment (S.A.V.E).

Contact Us!

continued from page 5, *Working Group*

When: Monday August 7th, 2017
7pm-9pm

Where: Rutgers Cooperative
Extension of Cumberland
County
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332

Please RSVP with Nicholas Saumweber (nicholas.saumweber@nj.usda.gov, 856-285-7654) to guarantee adequate space and materials. Light refreshments will be provided.

**CAPE ATLANTIC
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Phone: 609-625-3144
Fax: 609-625-7360
www.capeatlantic.org

**"Committed to the
Conservation of
Our Natural Resources"**

