

Spring-Summer 2015

Updates to the NJ Erosion Control Standards and Other Forms



It's been over a year since the seventh edition of the *Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey* was released. It is now available for download at the [Department of Agriculture or Cape Atlantic Conservation District websites.](#)

These *Standards* were adopted January 2014 and include additional guidance for assessing downstream stability, rip rap design, the use

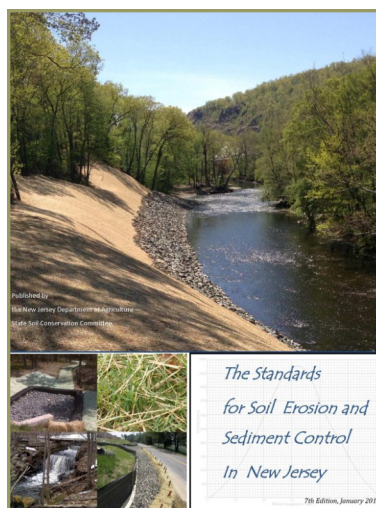
of infiltration and additional vegetative options for use in the Pinelands National Reserve.

Proposed amendments to the Standard for Topsoiling and the

Standard for Land Grading were not adopted, and are undergoing further revision.

Other updates have taken place to the [Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Application Form](#) and [Data Base Summary Form](#).

Be sure to use the updated forms when submitting a project to the District. Updated forms can be found on the District's website, capeatlantic.org



99th Annual League of Municipalities Conference

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities has been serving local officials throughout the Garden State for 100 years. All 565 municipalities are members of the League. The highlight of the

year's activities is the Annual Conference, held each November in Atlantic City.

At the 2014 conference, The Cape Atlantic Conservation District partnered with NRCS Plant Materials Center

and showcased some of the products and resources each agency offered through an informational exhibit at the event. You can access these resources at capeatlantic.org and nrcs.usda.gov.

RESOURCE NEWS

USDA NRCS



MONARCH BUTTERFLY ON A PURPLE CONEFLOWER

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60th Anniversary of Stewardship Week April 27—May 3, 2015

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances! The program relies on locally-led conservation districts, such as the Cape Atlantic Conservation District, sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has



to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows.

Local Heroes – Your Hardworking Pollinators is

the theme for the 60th Anniversary of Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Pollinators form the underpinning of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but they have shown disturbing signs of decline in recent years.

When pollinators shrink in number, many plants either produce less seed or no seed at all. The bottom line is, when pollinators start disappearing, plants start disappearing.

Join in the celebration and let your community know about the importance of pollinators! Find out how by going to nacdnet.org/stewardship

NACD Kicks Off Annual Meeting in New Orleans



The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) had its Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana February 1 – 4, 2015. This year's theme was "Conservation: Key to a Healthy Nation." The NACD Annual Meeting brings together conservation leaders from across the nation for educational sessions, workshops and networking. Keynote speakers included: USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Krysta Harden; Lt. Governor of Louisiana Jay Dardenne; and Commander for the Mississippi Valley Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Major General Michael Wehr.

Tuesday's General Session focused on the past, present and future of conservation with former USDA NRCS Chief Dave White discussing the history of districts and the

conservation movement while USDA NRCS Chief Jason Weller providing an outlook on the future of conservation in America.

Throughout the three days, there were various workshops and training sessions touching on a wide array of topics including conservation partnerships, dealing with stormwater, pollinators, soil health, and grant opportunities.

Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit 2015 “Balancing Progress and Protection: 10 Years of Science in Action”

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program, leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold

Since the first conference that took place in 2005, thousands of Delaware Estuary stakeholders have shared hundreds of science and outreach presentations. Networking opportunities among the varied participants have created partnerships between scientists, outreach specialist, resource managers, students and many others, and inspired positive strides in the

implantation and awareness of environmental efforts.

The Cape Atlantic Conservation District, in partnership with NRCS Plant Materials Center, disseminated information about their various programs, informational literature, and other resources that can be obtained through their perspective offices. Staff from both offices attended numerous workshops and discussions during the 3-day event.

Envirothon 2015 is Coming to Cape May County

The Cape Atlantic Conservation District is pleased to announce that the 2015 Envirothon will be held in our own backyard at the Cape May County 4-H Fairgrounds in Cape May Court House on May 2, 2015. Tent camping will be available the night before, on May 1. Each year, the Envirothon features a specific current environmental issue. The 2015 issue is **"Urban/Community Forestry"**.

The District is pleased to welcome back the NJ Envirothon to Cape May County! We hope that schools in both Atlantic and Cape May Counties take the opportunity to participate.

As in past years, the District is offering eight mini grants of

\$100. The first eight participating teams from either Atlantic or Cape May County will be eligible.



Three training sessions for interested schools and students will be held throughout the state, one in northern, one in central and one in

southern New Jersey. The Cape Atlantic Conservation District will be hosting the southern training session on April 17th in Clayton. Registration is required for both the mini grant and training session. Training trunks are also available for interested schools and students and can be borrowed for a one or two-week period.

2015 Poster Contest: "Your Hardworking Pollinators"

Each year, the Cape Atlantic Conservation District, in cooperation with New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts, sponsors an annual Poster Contest. The contest is sponsored to help promote a better understanding



of the environmental issues in Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

"Local Heroes-Your Hardworking Pollinators" is the theme chosen for the 2015 poster

contest. Prizes are awarded for top winning posters on the local and state levels. Entry forms and rules can be found at capeatlantic.org. The deadline, March 27th, for submission to the District is quickly approaching!

The NACD website has a wealth of information for educators interested in learning more about the importance of pollinators.

Atlantic and Cape May Counties to Celebrate 2015 Earth Day

Earth Day has become a global movement, raising the awareness and consciousness of people in their environment. Cape May and Atlantic Counties embrace this awareness in celebrating Earth Day 2015 on April 18th and April 26th, respectively.

The Cape Atlantic Conservation District will be present at both celebrations. Our displays

emphasize the conservation of our natural resources and how homeowners can implement some practices in their own yard.



Plus, what a great way to break the doldrums of winter than to get out of

the house and celebrate mother earth and the coming of spring!



Be sure to visit us and see what goodies may be in store for you!



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

We're on the Web
Capeatlantic.org

USDA Observes Kick Off of the International Year of Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began its celebration of the International Year of Soils on Jan. 6, 2015 to highlight the importance of healthy soils for food security, ecosystem functions and resilient farms and ranches.

With an increasing global population, a shrinking agricultural land base, climate change and extreme weather events, the nations of

the world are focusing their collective attention to the primary resource essential to food production—the soil.

“International Year of

and improved soil health play in the economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture,” said Jason Weller, Chief of USDA’s Natural

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS is coordinating activities to mark USDA's

involvement in the International Year of Soils. Check out the [NRCS Soil Health](#)



The District Welcomes a New Term of Stockton Interns

The 2015 spring term at Stockton University means another round of new interns for the District. The District has an agreement with Stockton University's Environmental Science, Planning and Resource Management Department allowing interested students to intern at the District. An internship at the District fulfills a requirement needed by the students before graduating.

Zach is a senior in the environmental studies program and will be part of the 2015 graduating class, earning a BS in Environmental



Zach Rakebrand

Science. Zach's interest in environmental issues as they effect farmlands is evident in his work experience.

Leah is a graduate of Cottey College of Missouri, where she earned an AS degree, and is now pursuing her BS in Environmental Science.

Leah is working towards obtaining her GIS certification from Stockton University. The internship with the District will help move her closer to that goal.



Leah Wallerstein

Leah plans on graduating in December of 2015.

Kevin is pursuing his BA in History with a minor in Environmental Science.

His interest in History led him to Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, studying the historical and environmental significance of castles. He is also the recipient of the Friends of Hellenic Studies Scholarship.

Kevin will be joining the class of 2015 in December.



Kevin Hesson