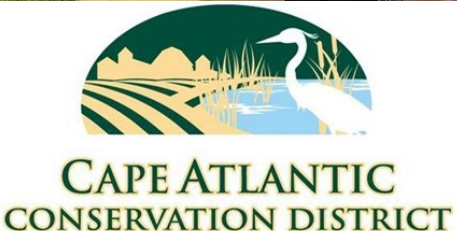




CAPE ATLANTIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL/WINTER 2022-2023



Recent Educational Events

The District participated in a number of community and youth education events during the spring and summer including the following:

- **Cape May County Earth Day:** On April 23, the Cape Atlantic Conservation District was among 50 environmentally friendly exhibitors at the Cape May Zoo celebrating Earth Day. The theme for the day was “Invest in Our Planet”. Free pollinator posters, practical conservation practices for homeowners, and other useful information was distributed.

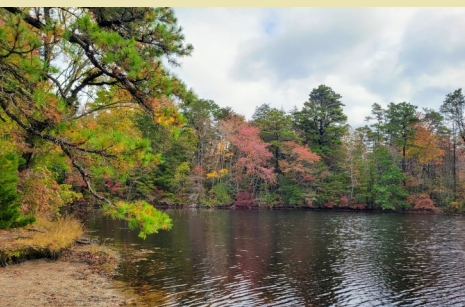


Above: Staff members Glenn Ward and Marie Rogowski, represented the District at the Cape May County Earth Day.

- **Atlantic County Earth Day:** After a 2-year pause, Atlantic County Earth Day celebrated its 30th year being held at the Atlantic County Municipal Authority facility on April 24. Celebrating the environment, an estimated 8,000 people attended where numerous vendors, exhibits, and other entertainment events were on hand. The District showcased a walk-through, backyard conservation display with hand-outs, conservation information, and take-a-way ideas.



Left: Joe Girnius, District Intern, poses with the District's display at the Atlantic County Earth Day event in April. The display highlights various backyard conservation practices such as mulching, composting, and raised garden beds.



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Recent Educational Events

- **Nature Fest at Galloway:** This annual event hosted by Galloway Schools, is a combination of student research, presentations, and professional organizations displays that focus on South Jersey ecosystems. District staff's display included the soil tunnel, shown to the right, to educate elementary and middle school students about the importance of soils. The soil tunnel allows students a chance to explore what the world is like below our feet.
- **Jordan Road School Field Day:** The District was invited to participate in the Jordan Road Middle school's field trip. A 2-day event held on June 1 & 10 at Kennedy Park in Somers Point, groups of 5th and 6th graders rotated through several stations, each focusing on a different topic. District staff utilized the soil tunnel, explaining the importance of soil health, soil characteristics, and presented a short soil science experiment.



Above: Staff member, Glenn Ward, helps a young student understand the District's Soil Tunnel at Nature Fest.

- **Summer Camp at Inland Family Success Center:** The Inland Family Success Center is a community-based, family centered neighborhood gathering place where community residents can go for family support, information, and services. This year they hosted a one week summer camp for boys ages 8-12. At the camp, staff facilitated an interactive presentation on predator and prey relationship. Using skulls and pelts from local species, staff helped campers understand key characteristics of carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores.



Left: Chelsea Steffes, a Site Inspector with the District, shows campers a pelt from a red fox during the presentation on predator and prey relationships.

Interested in having the Cape Atlantic Conservation District at your next educational event?

Contact Glenn Ward at (609) 625-3144 or glennward@capeatlantic.org

Preserved Farmland Monitoring

Site Inspector, Chelsea Steffes, worked with the State Agriculture Development Committee and Cape May County to conduct annual preserved farmland monitoring. The District monitored 144 farms in total, including 37 in Atlantic County, 71 in Cape May County, and 36 in Cumberland County.

The Preserved Farmland Program is administered by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), which works with County Agriculture Development Boards, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations to purchase farmland and development easements from landowners. By selling development easements, the landowner still remains the property owner, but ensures the land will forever be protected for agricultural use.



Poster Contest Results

The annual New Jersey Conservation Poster Contest was held in March and the District received many great entries. This year's stewardship theme was "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life" and the contest was open to all students in grades 2-12.

Shown below are the first and second place winners in three different age groups. The posters highlight the importance of a healthy soil full of nutrients and organisms as well as how that effects people, animals, and the food we grow.



10-12 Grade Division:

1st Place:
Dalia Gomez-Rojas, Lower Cape May Regional High School

2nd Place:
Shannon Fisher, Lower Cape May Regional High School



4-6 Grade Division:

1st Place:
Dulce Aleman, North Main Street School

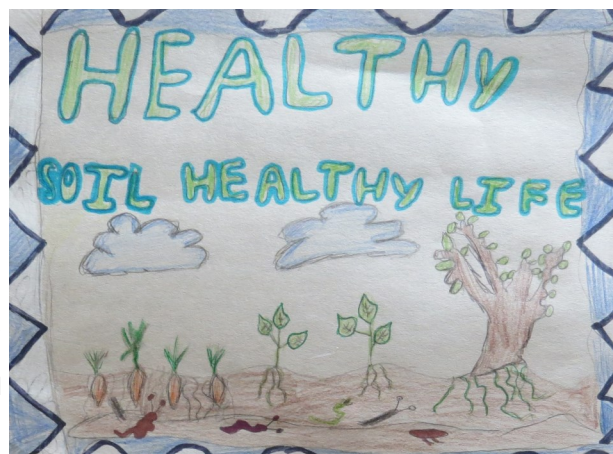
2nd Place:
Genesis Juandiego, North Main Street School



2-3 Grade Division:

1st Place:
Mercedes Cottman, North Main Street School

2nd Place:
Rosa Saavedra, North Main Street School



Conferences, Meetings, and Trainings

- The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) held a work conference from May 9-13 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The NCP is a collaboration of five agencies with the goal of advancing voluntary conservation efforts on private lands.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) held their 2022 Summer Conservation Forum and Tour from July 16-19 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- August 28-31, the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts Northeast Region had their annual conference in Cambridge, Maryland. The focus of the meeting was to build and strengthen networks between conservation districts, state and federal agencies, farmers, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and research institutions in the region.
- The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts will be hosting its Annual Partnership Meeting at the Freehold Conservation District on Thursday, November 17.
- Conservation Planning Field Days organized by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be hosted on October 18-20, focusing on soil, soil health, and conservation planning.
- There will be a state soil training for District staff on October 27.
- The Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit will be held January 30-February 1, 2023 at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City. The theme of the biennial summit will be Estuary on the Rise.
- The NACD Annual Meeting is coming up in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 11-15, 2023.

Check out the District's Facebook Page

Do you want to find out more about local agricultural and conservation news and events? Follow the Cape Atlantic Conservation District on [Facebook](#). We are always updating the page with information and local events.



Above: District board members welcomed State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, Robert Andrzejczak, to the District's monthly meeting in April. From left to right, board members Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Cormac Morrissey, Allen Carter Jr., Robert Andrzejczak, board member Richard Dovey, and Christopher Miller of the NJ Plant Materials Center.

Intern Corner

The District has an on-going internship program, allowing interested Stockton students to intern at the District. Every fall and spring school semester, the Cape Atlantic Conservation District takes on new ospreys from Stockton University's School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics. The internship is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on work experience as well as fulfilling a requirement needed by the students before graduating. This past Spring, Joe Girnius, a rising senior at Stockton University, took part in the internship program with the District. Joe returned to the district for the summer as a part-time seasonal worker and assisted the district with plan review as well as education outreach. Below, Joe reflects on his experience working with the District:

"My intern experience with the Cape Atlantic Conservation District was fantastic! I learned a lot about the district and the importance of soil conservation. I was afforded the opportunity to assist with and learn about soil erosion and sediment control plan review and inspections. Learning about stormwater reports and the associated calculations was very interesting with the larger plans. This experience will be helpful as I prepare to take groundwater hydrology in the fall at Stockton. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to intern with the district and work with all the district staff."



Above: Intern, Joe Girnius, teaches students from Jordan Road School about the importance of soil health.

For the Fall 2022 semester, the District is excited to welcome Sarah Champion, a rising Senior at Stockton University. Sarah is an Environmental Science Major with a concentration in Soil Science and Hydrology. She is a public lands, conservation, and environmental scientist in training with experience directly informing soil use, GIS, as well as resource planning and management. Her experience includes ecosystem modeling, survey research, and statistical analysis. Sarah is a plant lover, with a plethora of fun plant facts, that has an eye for public service.

New Jersey Envirothon

The New Jersey Envirothon was held virtually over two days in May. The Testing Stations were held on May 7 and included questions about wildlife, aquatics, soils, forestry, and a current issue. The current issue this year was, Waste to Resources. The top 5 teams moved on to complete in the team presentation round on May 21. Team 1 from Livingston High School was the winner of this year's Envirothon. Absegami High School, from Atlantic County, placed 7th overall.

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*"Committed to the conservation
of our natural resources."*

District Supervisors

Allen Carter, Jr.—District Chairman
Robert Fenton—Vice Chairman
Cormac Morrissey—Treasurer
Joseph L. Lomax—Secretary
Richard Dovey—Supervisor

District Staff

Michael Kent—District Manager
Glenn Ward—Assistant Manager
Chelsea Steffes—Site Inspector I
Marie Rogowski—Administrative Assistant