

CAPE ATLANTIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPRING/SUMMER 2022

New Jersey's Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Program Reaches a New Milestone

Conservation districts in New Jersey and across the Nation have been helping to address natural resource conservation's needs for more than 75 years. The Cape Atlantic Conservation District has been effectively administering the State of New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act (N.J.S.A 4:24-39 et seq) in Atlantic and Cape May Counties since 1976. The District, under the State of New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, addresses soil and water quality issues jointly with other state regulatory agencies. The Act requires all construction activities greater than 5,000 square feet to develop a plan to control erosion during construction. This plan must also ensure that erosion will not occur once construction is completed.

Since its inception in 1976, the soil erosion & sedimentation program has successfully managed over 1 million acres of land in New Jersey. This included commercial, residential (subdivisions), public facilities, mining, and infrastructure construction projects. Guided by a set of design practices known as "standards", the staff of the 14 state soil conservation districts verified compliance with a project's soil erosion and sediment control plan by performing over 2.5 million inspections. Ultimately, the conservation districts assured that all previously disturbed soil was permanently stabilized. Over 4.7 million staff hours were dedicated to the soil erosion and sediment control program.

	Total
<i>Acres Managed</i>	1,013,149
<i>Inspections Conducted</i>	2,585,626
<i>Staff Hours Invested</i>	4,711,607

These numbers attest to the commitment, dedication and involvement to which The State of New Jersey has invested in protecting its natural resources. New Jersey's soil conservation districts and staff will continue to provide guidance to the public and protection of the state's natural resources in the years to come.

THIS ISSUE:

Education Outreach

Page 2

Meetings and Workshops

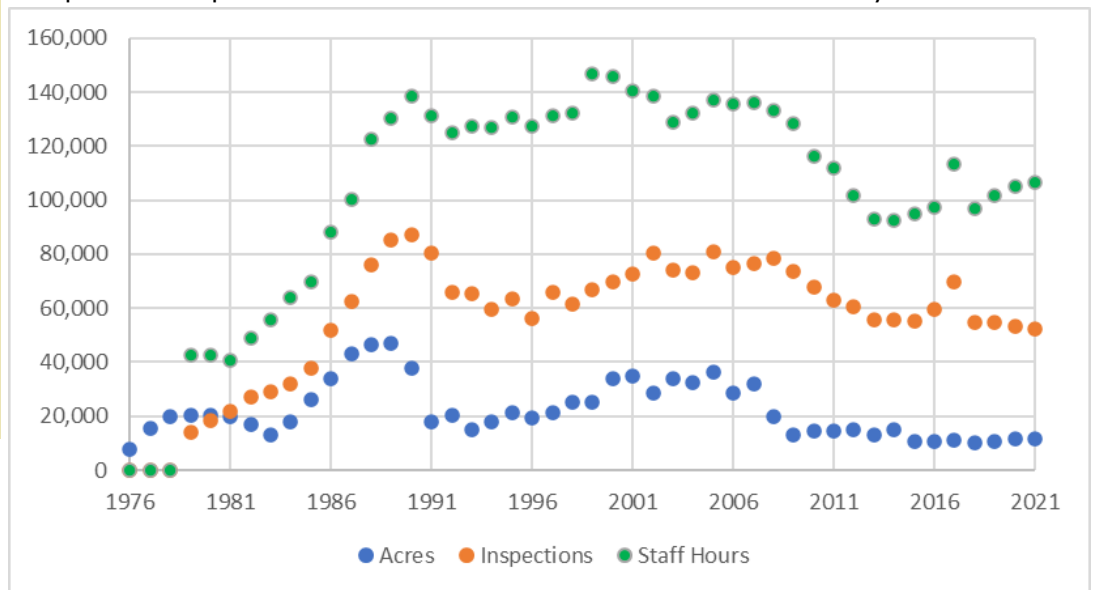
Page 3

Intern's Perspective

Page 4



CAPE ATLANTIC
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Yearly details on the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program including Acres managed, inspections conducted, and hours invested by staff.

New Jersey Conservation Poster Contest

The annual New Jersey Conservation Poster Contest provides students the chance to have their art displayed as part of a national conservation outreach initiative.

The Stewardship Theme for 2022 is "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life." The contest is open to all students in grades 2-12. The deadline for entry is March 25, 2022.

Many people don't realize that soil, especially healthy soil, is full of life. Millions of species and billions of organisms make up a complex and diverse mix of microscopic and macroscopic life



that represents the greatest concentration of biomass anywhere on the planet. These organisms cycle nutrients, build the soil and give it structure.

The contest starts at the district level, where the first and second place winners in each category receive gift cards. The top winning posters will advance to the state level, and then to the national level, where they receive recognition at NACD's annual meeting. The top three posters in each category of the national contest will receive monetary prizes.

Rules, deadlines for submission, and entry form can be found on the [District website](#). Resources for creating your poster can be found on the [National Association of Conservation Districts website](#).

Envirothon

The Envirothon is an opportunity for high school students to work on a team to learn more about New Jersey's natural resources and gain vital skills to navigate environmental issues. The New Jersey Envirothon's Current Environmental Issue this year will be "Waste to Resources."

The event is virtual again this year and is broken into two parts. The Station Testing will consist of written and hands-on questions. This will be held on Saturday, May 7.

The five teams with the most points in the Station Testing round will move on to the Team Presentation. This round will be held on Saturday, May 21.

All students will receive certificates of participation and NJ Envirothon T-shirts. The members of the first place team will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships and represent New Jersey at the North American Envirothon.

The deadline to register for the event is Friday, April 1. To register and find out more information please contact Glenn Ward at (609) 625-3144 or visit the [New Jersey Envirothon website](#).

Earth Day

ACUA's 30th Annual Earth Day Festival

The celebration will be held on Sunday, April 24 at 6700 Delilah Road in Egg Harbor Township. There will be lots of activities from 10 am to 4 pm, including 150 vendors, crafters, food vendors, and exhibitors. Activities include facility tours, free seedling giveaways, and eco hayrides.



The District's display about backyard conservation will be back at the ACUA's Earth Day.

Cape May Earth Day Celebration

The annual celebration is back and bigger than ever. Come join in the festivities on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm. The free event will be held at the Cape May County Park in the field by the bandstand.

Annual Meetings

NACD Annual Meeting

The National Association of Conservation Districts held their annual meeting from February 12 to 16 in Orlando, Florida. Board members Joe Lomax and Robert Fenton attended alongside staff members Michael Kent and Chelsea Steffes.

The meeting was an opportunity to meet with people working on conservation all over the nation.

Staff learned about educational outreach, urban agriculture, and local work groups which they hope to bring back to their work at the District.

Staff presented a poster outlining the work they have completed on the NACD's Technical Assistance Grants. The grant supported the District in hiring a full time staff member to work with NRCS staff in conservation planning.



NJACD Meeting

The 14 conservation districts will be meeting in person and virtually at the Freehold Soil Conservation District on Monday, March 28. The meeting will focus on partnerships and effective communication with other organizations such as the NRCS, NACD, NJDA, DEP, and Rutgers.

Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop

The New Jersey Plant Materials Center attended the Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop which was hosted by Restore America's Estuaries in October 2021. NJPMC staff set up an exhibitor table and also displayed two posters titled, "Selecting and Evaluating Plants for Successful Performance in Coastal and Living Shoreline Systems" and "Advancing the



USDA-NRCS exhibitor table at the Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop.

Science of Coastal Ecosystem Restoration."

District manager, Michael Kent, and Board Member, Joe Lomax also attended. The event was a great opportunity to network and discuss future collaboration with other organizations such as non profits, private ecological restoration consulting groups, and government agencies.

Backyard Conservation: Native Plants

A native plant is one that naturally grows in a region without human introduction. These plants have evolved over thousands of years to the environment around them.

Using native plants in your garden not only add beauty, but have important environmental and economic benefits. These plants are adapted to the natural climate and therefore do not require as much water as nonnative plants. They can also reduce the costs associated with fertilizers and pesticides. Native plants also provide habitat and food sources for wildlife.

When deciding on which native plants to add to your yard, consider the existing conditions. Think about your soil type and contact your county Cooperative Extension office for testing. Also consider the amount of sunlight the area will get throughout the day.

For more information on using native plants and specific native plant recommendations visit the Native Plant Society of New Jersey or check out CACD's guide on [Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat Improvement in New Jersey's Coastal Plain Region](#).

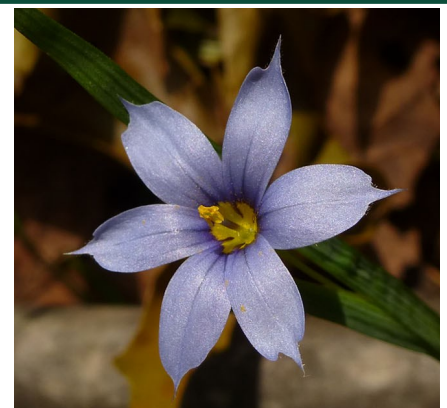


Photo by H & M Ling

National Plant A Flower Day is March 12th. Celebrate the upcoming spring season by planting native flowers like the Blue-Eyed Grass above.

Intern Corner

Every fall and spring semester, the Cape Atlantic Conservation District takes on 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. Students gain experience in reviewing site plans, using GIS to map current projects, and inspecting active construction sites. They also have opportunities to engage in education and outreach, including the Envirothon and Earth Day Celebrations.

This spring, the district invited Joseph Girnius to join our team. Joseph is currently a junior at Stockton University and is expected to graduate in the spring semester of 2023. He is majoring in Environmental Science with a concentration in soil science and hydrology. He is also minoring in sustainability. After graduation, Joseph hopes to work with the Environmental Protection Agency as an Environmental Specialist.



Intern, Joseph Girnius, gets out in the field to inspect a project with a basin being constructed.

NJACD Memorial Conservation Scholarship



The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts (NJACD) Memorial Conservation Scholarship Fund establishes a continuing memorial to those recognized and honored through monetary contribution for their dedicated service to the conservation of our natural resources. This scholarship is granted to encourage and support qualified students to pursue a career in a field related to the conservation and management of natural resources. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund have been invested to produce a continuing source of income to support scholarships to qualifying students in the field of conservation. More information and applications can be found on the [NJACD website](#).

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

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