

CAPE ATLANTIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MARCH / APRIL 2024

Next issue will be out in May!

The District's Newsletter will be sent out bi-monthly around the 15th.

Don't miss them!

New to the newsletter?

[Subscribe here!](#)



2024 Local Working Group Sessions

The Cape Atlantic Conservation District held its 2024 Local Working Group sessions in mid-January in both Atlantic and Cape May Counties. These Local Working Group sessions provided the opportunity for concerned citizens, organizations, and agencies to gather and identify important natural resource issues, concerns, and opportunities.



Photos by: Marie Rogowski

The sessions were very well attended and there was great conversation surrounding concerns and opportunities. Moving forward this year, the District will host Focus Groups, which provide the space to discuss accomplishments and opportunities in greater depth.

The District is preparing a report of findings from each meeting and they will be available on the District website!

Intro to the USDA and New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture Meeting

At the end of February, the District hosted a meeting for the USDA and New Jersey Department of Agriculture to provide more information to New Jersey farmers on the technical and financial assistance available in these programs.

In attendance was the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

The meeting was in response to feedback from farmers and producers at the 2024 Local Working Group sessions.



Photo by: Haley Jackson

2024 New Jersey Envirothon

The Envirothon is a dynamic hands-on environmental education event for high school students. The 2024 Current Issue is "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future". Visit the [NJ Envirothon page](#) for all the details.



RENEWABLE ENERGY



FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

When: Saturday, May 18th, 2024

**Where: Big Brook Park at
521 Route 520, Marlboro, NJ 07746**

Register at this link by April 1st

Cape Atlantic is offering Mini-Grants to help cover Envirothon costs for Teams. For more information on the Mini-Grants [click here](#). A flyer about the 2024 New Jersey Envirothon can be found [here](#).

NRCS CSP Deadline March 28th

NRCS New Jersey has announced the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Signups! "Agricultural producers and forest landowners looking to build on conservation efforts while strengthening their operation can apply for technical and financial assistance through CSP and IRA CSP." NRCS accepts applications all year but to be considered for the current funding cycle, apply by **Friday, March 29th, 2024**.

To learn more about CSP, new opportunities for this fiscal year and the application process, [click here](#).

Office of the Food Security Advocate

The District attended a meeting presented by C.R.O.P.S. to learn about the Office of the Food Security Advocate in NJ. This meeting brought together agencies, organizations, and concerned citizens to discuss food insecurity in Atlantic County and how this problem can be community led and sustainably solved. We thank the Executive Director for his time, and we look forward to more meetings like this in the future and working towards solutions!



Photo by: Alexis Flack

Classroom Presentations

Did you know the District offers a variety of classroom presentations and activities? With subjects such as watersheds, birds, soils, horseshoe crabs, food chains, NJ wildlife, and more! Email us at education@capeatlantic.org to schedule our visit to your classroom. Have a particular subject in mind you would like to have covered? Let us know and we can put together a presentation and activity to bring to your class!



Cape Atlantic Conservation District

"Committed to the conservation of our natural resources"

Meet the Spring 2024 Cape Atlantic Conservation Interns



Meet Sarah Wiggins!

My name is Sarah Wiggins and I am from Long Valley, NJ. I am a senior Environmental Science student at Stockton University and I am looking forward to graduating in May 2024. Once I graduate I hope to find a job in the environmental field. I am co-captain of the Stockton Equestrian Team and love riding horses and spending time outdoors hiking.



Meet Sierra Loutraris!

My name is Sierra Loutraris, and I'm from Toms River, NJ. I am currently an Environmental Science student at Stockton University, I will be graduating this semester. After receiving my degree I plan on looking for a job, possibly something in environmental consulting or the DEP, however the internship with the District has opened my eyes to different avenues I could explore. I currently work for the NJ State Park Police part time, and in my free time I enjoy reading, singing, and any outdoor activity.

Photos by: Dan Bononcini

This on-going intern program with Stockton University provides students with the opportunity to gain experience in the Districts Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program, education programs, community events and outreach, and agriculture! For more information, [visit this link](#).

2024 Conservation Poster Contest

The 2024 Poster Contest is here! This year's theme is, **May The Forest Be With You Always!**

As part of the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Poster Contest is open to all students in grades 2-12! Students will compete in grade categories and Cape Atlantic will be awarding prizes! All first-place winners will have their posters entered into the Statewide level competition.

The 2024 contest theme carries a message of respect, appreciation, and harmony with nature, specifically highlighting the forest environment.

[Click here for more information!](#) Contest entries due at the District Office by **March 22nd**.



"Committed to the conservation of our natural resources"

Earth Day 2024

2024 Earth Day is right around the corner!



Saturday, April 20th from **10am to 3pm** will be the **Cape May County Earth Day Celebration** at the Cape May County Park.

Sunday, April 28th from **10am to 4pm** will be the **ACUA's 32nd Annual Earth Day Festival** at the ACUA Environmental Park.

The District looks forward to seeing everyone at these great events where you can learn more about the District, Backyard Conservation, our education programs, and agriculture offerings!



District educational display at the ACUA Earth Day!

Contact Us!

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Looking Ahead at March and April

March

- Friday, March 22nd
 - 2024 Conservation Poster Contest entries due at the District Office
- Thursday, March 28th @ 8:00AM
 - District Board of Supervisors' Meeting at the District Office, Atlantic County Office Building at 6260 Old Harding Hwy., Mays Landing, NJ 08330
- Friday, March 29th
 - Good Friday, District Office closed

April

- Saturday, April 20th @ 10AM - 3PM
 - Cape May Earth Day Celebration at the Cape May County Park, 707 Rte 9 North, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
- Thursday, April 25th @ 8:30AM
 - District Board of Supervisors' Meeting at the Cooperative Extension of Cape May County 355 Court House/So. Dennis Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
- Sunday, April 28th @ 10AM - 4PM
 - ACUA Earth Day Festival at the ACUA Environmental Park, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ