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Susan Gouveia

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:08 PM
To: Canning, Sean; Susan Gouveia
Subject: FW: Raritan River Initiative Update
Attachments: Accomplishments 2013-2014.pdf

Categories: Correspondence

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From: Judy Shaw [mailto:jashaw@rci.rutgers.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 12:57 PM
To: jashaw
Subject: Raritan River Initiative Update

Greetings, friends and colleagues!
We at Rutgers' Raritan River Initiative hope you are well - and enjoying a quiet sunny day.

Three key points -

- 1) Save the whole day of June 13, 2014 on your calendar and join us at the upcoming annual conference!
- 2) Send us news about your community and your accomplishments (see attached!) - for awards and recognition!
- 3) Feel free to send a check (made out to Rutgers University, with "Raritan River Initiative" on the memo line) to support our efforts!

More details to follow - just wanted to put this out ahead of time so you're ready and thinking about the value of your natural resources!
Attached is our quick update - and we trust it will inspire you to work for recognition through our awards system!

Regards
Judy Shaw

Sustainable Raritan River Initiative Accomplishments 2013-2014

Collaborative

- Sustainable Raritan River Action Plan Partners include: 7 counties and various county departments, 39 municipalities, 6 regional entities, 23 environmental organizations, 15 state and federal partners, 6 foundations, 19 business partners, and 12 academic partners (for details of the Action Plan, see www.raritan.rutgers.edu/agenda)
- Regular update and notice for events goes to over 1400 individuals (Subscribe to our newsletter: www.raritan.rutgers.edu)
- The Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative Steering Committee includes members of eight major regional and state environmental programs and three academic programs (for more information, see <http://www.raritan.rutgers.edu/about/steering.php>)
- To become a *formal* part of the Collaborative, pass a resolution indicating your support for the goals (see goals listed in the report: <http://www.raritan.rutgers.edu/agenda/finalplan.pdf> and contact Sara Malone at simalone@ejb.rutgers.edu)

2013 Annual Conference

- The 5th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference – June 2013 at the E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers Livingston Avenue Campus. Conference materials and write-up are posted to the SRRC website. Twenty-four speakers and moderators guided over 150 participants through *Fishable and Swimmable* issues for the Raritan. Three workshop tracks focused on education and stewardship, planning and management, and economic development (www.raritan.rutgers.edu)

Workshops

- Mini-Conference / Workshop at Duke Farms – December 2013. Nearly 140 participants attended three panels on issues of sustainability for the Raritan. Panel topics covered public access, climate resiliency and preserving priority habitats. The day started with a bird walk and ended with a walking tour of restored wetlands at Duke Farms. Conference summary and presentation materials are posted here: [Sustainability Along the Raritan Workshop](#).

- Educators and Schools Workshop – May 2013. Over twenty teachers and environmental educators gathered to discuss outreach efforts in schools and to promote education of students on issues of concern in their own environments.
- Reducing Invasives, Retaining Our Trees– February 2013. Close to 100 people attended a workshop at Duke Farms on controlling invasive species and the benefits provided by maintaining healthy urban forests. Information is on our website: <http://www.raritan.rutgers.edu/events/recent.php>.

2013 Annual Awards

- Conferred seven Sustainable Raritan River Awards in 2013 at our annual conference. Awards were given in the categories of public education, government innovation, stewardship, public access, remediation and redevelopment, sustainable business, and leadership. A brief write-up on the awards and recipients is on our Website along with a video ([2013 Achievement Awards](#)).

Communication

- Launched new Facebook Page for the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative www.facebook.com/RaritanCollaborative
- Newsletter – continue to provide service to the broader Collaborative and stakeholders through our monthly electronic newsletter (back issues are on our Website under News & Events)
- The Bloustein School’s Environmental Analysis and Communications Group Website now links to the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative and through that to the Collaborative Website
- A new Brochure is available describing the Collaborative, the Initiative, and our efforts on behalf of the Raritan: <http://www.raritan.rutgers.edu/resources/Brochure2013.pdf>

Film

- Our recent film, *Renaissance on the Raritan* was picked up and distributed by NJTV

Book

- [The Raritan River: Our Landscape, Our Legacy](#) captures stories and photos of the region. It is a fine celebration of our area. The expected release is Summer 2014.

Research/Reports

- EPA Raritan Project – partnered with Rutgers Cooperative Extension to develop better access to data for municipal government relative to local pollution controls – entering final phase of project.

Graduate Planning Studios

- Carlos Rodrigues' Fall 2013 studio for Perth Amboy
- Sayreville – Tony Nelessen Design Studio
- Judy Shaw and Mark Gallagher's 2013 studio to restore the greenway in Milltown on the Lawrence Brook
- Sara Malone and Michael Catania's 2014 Red Root Creek Restoration Edison/Woodbridge line in Middlesex County

Getting Out on the River

- *New Brunswick River Festival and Raritan Borough RiverFest* were both held in September and drew record numbers of people out to celebrate. The more communities that get involved in these festivals, the better.
- Public Access has been a major focus this year – and canoeing and kayaking continue to grow as means of exploring the area and seeing the wonderful birdlife.

Technical Assistance

- Raritan & Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission
 - Website Design – designed website for the Raritan & Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission to assist in distributing information about flood mitigation efforts and stormwater management to their constituents – expected to go live in April, 2014.
 - Flood Mitigation – advised with the Raritan-Millstone Flood Control Commission throughout the year on natural mitigation and flood control issues.
- Raritan Scholars Program
 - Continue working with Dr. Dan VanAbs and the Raritan Scholars program to promote student service learning within the watershed to address environmental quality issues

Public Outreach

- Presentations of the films, *Renaissance on the River*, in Raritan Boro, Perth Amboy and Hillsborough
- Presentation about the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative and the Collaborative to the Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership and showed *Renaissance on the River* at their fall meeting
- Presented the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative to inform the Rutgers Facility Master Plan as part of Rutgers overall strategic planning process

Looking Ahead - 2014

6th Annual Conference

- 6th Annual Sustainable Raritan Conference planned for June 13, 2014 at Cook Campus, Rutgers. This annual conference will focus on Valuing Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital describing what it is, showing examples of where resources have been valued, how this process has changed land use decisions, and introducing tools and resources for Raritan stakeholders.

Action Plan Topic Workshop

- Remediation Workshop planned. This will be a half-day workshop to facilitate discussion of how non-profits and local municipalities can engage in the remediation process, build remediation into their local planning efforts, and embrace remediation in economic redevelopment efforts.

Communication and Public Outreach

- Rutgers 250 Celebration
 - Rutgers 250 is the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Rutgers University to take place in 2016. Discussions with Rutgers 250 Planning Committee about public access project to connect Rutgers to New Brunswick and the Raritan River.
- Website
 - Launching new Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative Website in May 2014

Further Information

- For more information, check out the Sustainable Raritan website at www.raritan.rutgers.edu
- Monthly Report – register here to get update highlighting work at Rutgers and across the Collaborative: [Raritan River News Registration](#)
- Raritan Scholars Program - continue working with the Raritan Scholars program to promote student service within the watershed to address environmental quality issues (for information on next year's program, contact Dan VanAbs (vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu))