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Susan Gouveia

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 1:59 PM
To: Canning, Sean; Susan Gouveia
Subject: FW: NEWS from the Raritan River Initiative—September 2013

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Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 1:23 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: NEWS from the Raritan River Initiative—September 2013

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NEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE RARITAN RIVER

INITIATIVE — September 2013

- [World Water Week is September 1 through 6](#)
- [Deadline for the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards – September 6](#)
- [Next Tire Roundup on the Raritan – September 7](#)
- [NY/NJ Baykeeper Paddle on the Lawrence Brook – September 7](#)
- [Somerville Rain Garden Rebates Workshop – September 7 & 10](#)
- [Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workshop – September 10](#)
- [HEP Grants Deadline – September 12](#)
- [ANJEC Award Nominations Deadline – September 13](#)
- [ANJEC Environmental Commission Workshop – September 16](#)
- [HEP Citizen Science Workshop – September 18](#)
- [Woodbridge Township/Woodbridge River Celebration –September 28](#)
- [Raritan River Festivals in New Brunswick and Raritan Borough – September 29](#)
- [ANJEC Trees and Native Vegetation Workshop – September 30](#)
- [Save the Date — Sustainable Raritan River Conference @ Duke Farms – October 16](#)
- [Another Dam Down! – Nevius Street Dam Removed](#)
- [See Something, Say Something](#)
- [Post to our Facebook Page](#)
- [A Note from Judy](#)
- [Action Pledges](#)

Think Globally, Act Locally for World Water Week

Though many of the issues being discussed at the [World Water Week Conference in Stockholm](#)

seem far removed from the issues surrounding the river in our back yards, September 1 through 6 is World Water Week and a good time to reflect on the role the Raritan River plays in our lives. Water supply, habitat, recreation, economic development, and much more.... Renew your commitment to work with your neighbors to restore, maintain and enhance this resource for the future. You can visit our [Website](#) or [Facebook](#) page to learn more about the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative, the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, and our guiding document, the [Action Plan](#). And see Judy's note at the bottom of this newsletter about making your pledge for sustainability.

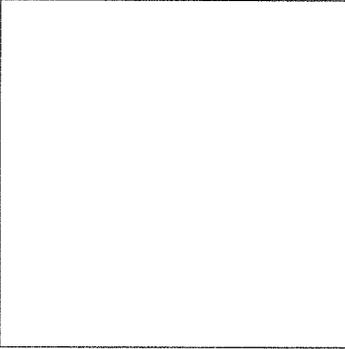
[\(back to top\)](#)

September 6 — Deadline for 2013 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects throughout the state. Nominations can be submitted for the following categories: Clean Air, Healthy Ecosystems, Water Resources, Land Conservation, Healthy and Sustainable Communities and Businesses, Innovative Technology, Environmental Education and the new "Environmentalist of the Year" category. Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative members – the [NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#) and the [NJ State League of Municipalities](#) – are partners in the awards. You can find more information on their websites or at www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards.

[\(back to top\)](#)

The Amazing Raritan River Tire Roundup—Next Clean-up September 7



“... so we grabbed one tire and thought ‘well it can start right here... we can do something about this’”. That is how the amazing Raritan River tire roundup started, with a couple of guys who saw a need and then did something about it.

You’ve probably read about them in the paper, but we just had to add our thanks to the planning team of Joseph David, Steven Van Deursen, Dawn Moeller David, Dineen Van Deursen and Eric

Swingle for envisioning and then coordinating the removal of over 500 tires and tons of trash from the South Branch and Raritan River between Neshanic Station and the Borough of Raritan. I’ve pasted their story, as told by Joseph David, to our [Facebook](#) page. Please read his account of all the people and resources that came together over the two days of the cleanup. Amazing!

And they aren’t done yet! The next cleanup organized by this great group of people is Saturday, September 7, launching at the Robert Street access point near the Bridgewater/Raritan Borough border. Contact them through their [Facebook page](#) if you would like to join them or support this sustainable Raritan grassroots effort.

[\(back to top\)](#)

Sunset Paddle on the Raritan — Next Paddle September 7

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to paddle on the Raritan at sunset? Our [Raritan Riverkeeper](#), Bill Schultz sent me this description of their last paddle out of Perth Amboy; it is interesting, educational and fun, and if it piques your interest, you can join the NY/NJ Baykeepers next paddle on September 7, paddling from the Edison Boat Ramp up the South River and

Lawrence Brook. For more information on this next paddle visit the [Baykeeper website](#).

Bill wrote, "The sunset paddle on 20 August was originally scheduled for 13 August, but was postponed for a week because it rained enough on the morning of the 13th to activate the bypass in Perth Amboy's 84" combined sewer overflow adjacent to our launch location and dumped raw untreated sewage on the beach, (good start to the story isn't it?). A dozen kayaks left the 2nd Street Beach

in Perth Amboy joined by a couple of members of the Raritan Bay Paddling Club for safety and support. We passed under the NJ Transit Railroad Bridge and discussed how Hurricane Sandy shifted the bridge several inches. Then past the Gerdau Ameristeel steel mill and spoke of the importance of moving product by ship & barge rather than truck. We paddled under the pier of the Cornucopia Cruise Line and past their dinner boats, one of the few water dependent businesses on the Raritan River. After passing Hess Oil's bulk storage facility we crossed the river to the site of Sayreville's proposed 440 acre "fortress mall", the "Luxury Point". We paddled past the undeveloped South Amboy shoreline with a sunset at our backs and a full blue moon rising ahead of us as we returned to the Perth Amboy beach."

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 7 and 10 — Somerville Residents Can Still Get Rain Garden Rebates

Did you miss the Somerville Rain Garden Rebate workshops in August? **Somerville property owners can still get rebates.** Individual design sessions will be held on Saturday, September 7 and Tuesday, September 10. Interested Somerville residents should contact [Heather Desko](#) at

the NJ Water Supply Authority or [Sara Mellor](#) at Rutgers Water Resources to set up an appointment. A Somerville resident can also submit their design to Rutgers for approval prior to installation to be eligible for the rebate. The Rain Garden Rebate Program information is available on the [rebate website](#). Residents, businesses, community groups—as long as they are within the Somerville Borough boundary-- are eligible for rebates! Participants will get rebates of \$3 per square foot of garden, up to \$450. The Rain Garden Rebate Program, administered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program with funding support from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, is a partnership between the Borough of Somerville, Rutgers, New Jersey Water Supply Authority and Duke Farms.

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 10 — Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workshop

Making green stormwater management a reality is the topic of ANJEC's September 10 workshop in Hightstown. Hightstown's Environmental Commission, which recently got the town to adopt an enhanced stormwater ordinance, also collaborated with the Borough's Housing Authority on a green stormwater project at the public housing complex. The project serves as a demonstration site where property owners can learn how green stormwater techniques work. Tour this innovative community project and hear how it came to be, what it cost, and how it's working. Also, learn about Hopewell Township's stormwater initiatives including pilot projects with various types of pervious pavement at municipal facilities. The workshop runs from 6:45 to 8:45 pm. For more information, email info@anjec.org or visit their website at www.anjec.org.

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 12 — Deadline for Two Grant Opportunities

The New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP), in partnership with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), is requesting proposals for:

- **Citizen Science Monitoring for Pathogen Indicators:** now accepting applications from environmental and/or community organizations to monitor for pathogen indicators and other water quality parameters in tributaries to the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary.
- **A Standard Protocol for Assessing the Habitat Quality of Ecologically Enhanced Urban Shorelines:** Accepting proposals to develop and pilot a standard protocol to assess the habitat quality associated with ecologically enhanced shoreline stabilization techniques in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.neiwpcc.org/contractors/opportunities.asp>.

Proposals for both opportunities are due by 5:00 PM September 12, 2013.

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 13 — Deadline for ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award Nominations

The ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award program recognizes exceptional projects carried out by environmental commissions and groups. Projects begun after 1/1/11 and completed by 8/31/13 are eligible for nomination for a 2013 award. ANJEC grant projects are not eligible for this award. The awards will be presented on Saturday, October 19th, at the ANJEC

Environmental Congress. Nominees are evaluated on (1) Project impact, originality, educational value, and response to a need, and (2) Clarity of application, supporting information. Awards categories are (1) Environmental commission project, (2) New environmental commission project (for commissions formed after 12/31/2010), and (3) Non-profit or community organization or board (local, regional or statewide). For more information, email info@anjec.org or visit their website at www.anjec.org.

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 16 — Environmental Commission Workshop

ANJEC is hosting a workshop in two parts to help your environmental commission members develop key competencies to perform at a high level. Participants will gain practical tools on key topics such as setting a strategic vision, implementing goals and gaining support from local officials and community members. The first section is Monday, September 16, from 7 to 9:30 pm in Highland Park, and the second section is via Webinar in October. For more information, email info@anjec.org or visit their website at www.anjec.org.

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 18 — Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring Workshop

When: September 18, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

What: Learn about water quality and how to get involved in testing your waters

Where: Pier 40, Hudson River Park (W Houston at the Hudson River)

The New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP) and its Citizens Advisory Committee invite you to come and learn about pollution issues still affecting our waters, solutions, how the states are testing the waters, and how you can test the waters in your neighborhood. There will be a **live demonstration** of water sampling and testing by The River Project.

The **workshop is free** and lunch will be provided, but **space is limited** to 100 participants, so **please RSVP** to secure a spot. [Visit their website](#) for more information about the workshop and to peruse a list of water quality resources.

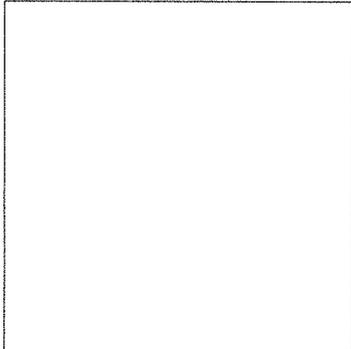
[\(back to top\)](#)

September 28 — Woodbridge River Celebration

Date: Saturday, September 28th from 11 am – 3 pm

Location: The Hungarian Club, 95 Port Reading Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ

Email: Sarah@nynjbaykeeper.org for more information.



NY/NJ Baykeeper is partnering with Woodbridge Township for the first ever Ernie Oros Woodbridge River Celebration, co-hosted with Woodbridge Township and Woodbridge River Watch on Saturday, September 28th from 11 am – 3 pm. This event is FREE to the public, thanks to Bayshore Recycling, and will feature hamburgers & hot dogs, kayaking on the Woodbridge River, live music and

children's activities. Come out and learn more about NY/NJ Baykeeper and our work and bring a friend!

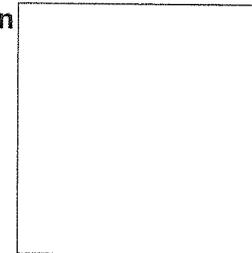
[\(back to top\)](#)

September 29 — Raritan River Festivals

Ducks Galore! You have two duck races to choose from this year! The City of New Brunswick and Raritan Borough are each holding Raritan River festivals on September 29.

The 33rd Annual Raritan River Festival & Duck Race will be held at Boyd Park in New Brunswick from 12 to 6 pm. There is free admission & family fun for all ages. Some of the festival features include live music all day on two stages, beer garden, festival food, canoe rentals, kids bounce houses, duck land, environmental exhibits, environmental presentations & performances under the Green Scene Tent, dance sessions, craft vendors, the one of a kind cardboard canoe race and the rubber duck race. Build your own cardboard canoe manned by a member of your team. See how long your cardboard canoe lasts on the water. Watch thousands of rubber duckies race down the canal once dropped from a huge egg. Please go to www.raritanriverfestival.net for more information. To sponsor a rubber duck in the race to help raise money for children with brain cancer go to www.beezfoundation.org. Come down to the River on Route 18 and have a great time!

Raritan Borough's 2nd Annual Raritan RiverFest runs from 12 to 5 pm in Canal Street Park between the Nevius Street Bridge and the Basilone Statue. The Borough's Festival is also chock full of fun activities, demonstrations and exhibits including a hot dog eating contest, dog fashion show, dunk tank, live music, classic car show, kids obstacle course, and much more. All proceeds from the Borough's festival support the



Steeplechase Cancer Center and the Raritan Fire Department. You can get more information at <https://www.facebook.com/riverfest.raritan>. To purchase ducks in advance, call (908) 338-0000.

[\(back to top\)](#)

September 30 — Trees and Native Vegetation Workshop

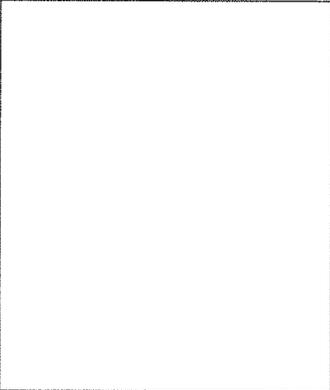
Learn from the experts about vegetation management by utilities, with an emphasis on solutions to tree - utility facilities conflicts. This workshop will cover selecting the right species to fit the location, planting guidelines, and cultivation practices. Atlantic City Electric foresters will also explain pruning techniques that protect both public safety and the health of the trees. Keeping trees properly pruned minimizes the possibility of electrical contact, downed wires, and electrical fires.

Also learn about the importance of native gardens and proper stewardship of your yard to protect water quality in our streams, rivers and bay.

Workshop is from 5:30 to 8:30 pm in Washington Township. For more information, email info@anjec.org or visit their website at www.anjec.org.

[\(back to top\)](#)

Save the Date! October 16 — Sustainable Raritan River Mini-Conference



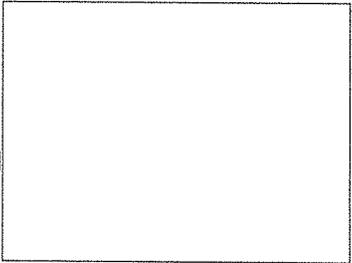
Clear your calendar on Wednesday, October 16, and then write in, "the next Sustainable Raritan River Conference."

This free mini-conference at Duke Farms will pick up where our last conference left off, highlighting more current issues of concern for the Raritan region and actions you can take for a more Sustainable Raritan River. Watch our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for updates.

[\(back to top\)](#)

Another Obstacle is Out of the Raritan!

The Nevius Street Dam is gone! The removal of the Nevius Street Dam, one of the last remaining obstructions to migratory fish passage on the main stem of the Raritan River, was successfully completed on July 31, 2013. This work was the third of three planned dam removals (the others being the Calco Dam, removed in 2011, and the Robert Street Dam, removed in 2012) that has now re-opened nine miles of historically significant spawning grounds for American shad and other migratory fish on the Raritan River and the lower 1.5 miles of the Millstone River (in addition to numerous tributaries). This fish passage restoration initiative was managed by John W. Jengo, PG of MWH on behalf of the Kinder Morgan, Inc., who is funding the project. To see video highlights of the dam removal, see the [Nevius Street Dam Removal - Part 1](#) and [Nevius Street Dam Removal - Part 2](#). There is also a [non-music version](#).



What's next? The NJDEP's Office of Natural Resources Restoration and NOAA's Habitat

Restoration Division received a grant from American Rivers to perform a fish passage feasibility study at Headgates Dam at Duke Island Park. The Louis Berger Group is the contractor performing the work. We'll keep you posted!

[\(back to top\)](#)

See Something, Say Something!

The above story about the tire clean-up begs the question, ***where did all those tires come from?*** At this time, we don't have an answer. Dumping in the Raritan or her tributaries is a crime on many levels. So, to borrow from Homeland Security's campaign, "if you see something, say something", call the ***NJDEP Hotline at 877-WARN-DEP to report dumping*** in or around the Raritan.

After you report the illegal activity to the NJDEP, call your local watershed group and tell them about it as well. They can help follow-up on the problem. There are several wonderful organizations working in the Raritan who can help. Following is a list of which group covers what area. You can get more information about these organizations and the other Collaborative partners on our [Website](#) on the [Collaborative](#) tab.

- The [Raritan Headwaters Association](#) should be notified for activity in the North and South Branches or Upper Raritan River watershed that includes Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs, and the Neshanic and Lamington Rivers
- The [Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association](#) will help with activity in the Millstone watershed that includes Carnegie Lake and the Stony Brook
- The [Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership](#) will assist with any activity in the Lawrence

Brook watershed, and

- The [NY/NJ Baykeeper](#) and the [Raritan Riverkeeper](#) should be notified for any activity in the Lower Raritan that includes the South River and Manalapan and Matchaponix Brooks as well as the Raritan Harbor and Arthur Kill.

Again, contact the NJDEP first and then call your local group. Thank you!

[\(back to top\)](#)

Raritan Collaborative Facebook Page



Do you have a Raritan River project, event, experience or photo you want to share? You can post them to our [Facebook](#) page.

[\(back to top\)](#)

A Note from Judy

Greetings to everyone across the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative! We hope you are enjoying the weather and are able to enjoy nature today. It's important for you to mark October 16 at Duke Farms for a follow up to the pledges you made at the June conference. And if you didn't make any, do it now! Send us your plans for water conservation and quality; send Sara what you will change individually, as part of the community and at your work! Here's her email: simalone@ejb.rutgers.edu.

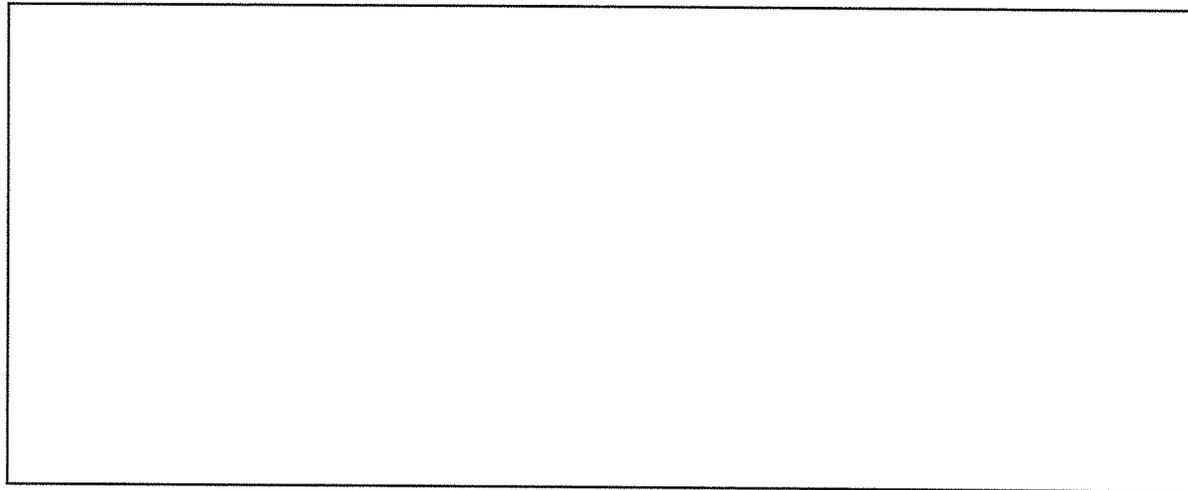
I will look forward to reconnecting with you upon my return to work!

Judy Shaw

[\(back to top\)](#)

Action Pledges

What is your pledge for sustainability in the Raritan Basin? Participants in our 5th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference pledged to take action to enhance water quality in the Raritan Basin by completing the following pledge:



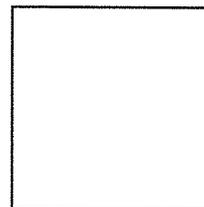
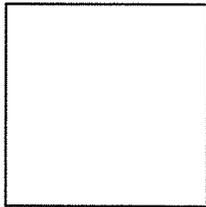
We received pledges from "promoting better pooper scooper laws" and "forgoing showers during rainstorms (to minimize CSO issues)" to "installing rain barrels" and "getting water conservation and stream corridor ordinances passed." Did you miss the Conference or did you forget to turn in your pledge form? **You can still take the pledge!** Copy the above pledge and e-mail it to [Sara Malone](#), or print it and mail it to Sara Malone, Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, Environmental

Analysis and Communications Group, E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, 33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901. We will give them back to you at the October mini-conference and measure our collective success over the summer.

PLEASE BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE:

www.raritan.rutgers.edu

We're on Facebook too!



VISIT US ONLINE!
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About the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative

The Sustainable Raritan River Initiative is an independently funded program of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey that brings together the broader university with key leaders from across the region and state.

The Initiative supports and facilitates the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative, which is a network of organizations and agencies in the Raritan River region working together to promote the integration of sound planning and a vision for the Raritan Basin that balances social, economic and environmental objectives. For more information, visit www.raritan.rutgers.edu.

title image courtesy Michael Catania

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