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Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: December 2019 & January 2020

Monmouth County, NJ sent this bulletin at 12/12/2019 10:16 AM EST



Winterberry (Ilex verticillata). Source: Amber Mallm



Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: December 2019 & January 2020

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Monmouth County Office of GIS Launches GeoHub

The Monmouth County Office of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) recently released the [Monmouth County NJ GeoHub](#), a website housing all publicly available GIS map

Upcoming Environmental & Outdoor Events in Monmouth County:

data managed by the County. The online tool is designed to allow the public to easily obtain data and prepare their own maps. Users can download shapefiles of open data, including County and municipal boundaries, to create their own maps on their desktop platforms or online.

[The Monmouth County NJ GeoHub](#) offers interactive online web applications to create maps right on the browser. The [Self-Service Online Mapping Application](#) allows users to access 11 different shapefiles and a high resolution aerial imagery basemap prepared by [Nearmap](#). Other web applications that were previously accessible on the County GIS website, like the [Monmouth County NJ Property Viewer](#) or [Wastewater Management Plan Map Viewer](#), are now available in this one-stop shop. Users may also browse story maps including the [Monmouth County Cultural & Heritage Virtual Tour](#) or the [Grown in Monmouth Directories](#). If users require data managed by entities other than Monmouth County, the NJ GeoHub offers links to access other publicly available data managed by external organizations like NJDEP or NJDOT.

For assistance creating maps or accessing even more data, you can contact the Monmouth County GIS Office at gis@co.monmouth.nj.us or call the Division of Planning at 732-431-7460. You may also make a request using the [Open Public Records Act \(OPRA\) form](#).

Some activities may require registration and/or fees:

- [Dec. 13, Roots for Rivers Grant Application Deadline](#)
- [Dec. 15, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Foraged Holiday Wreath DIY, Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown](#)
- [Dec. 24, 10 -11:30 a.m. Clear the House Stroll at Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown](#)
- [Jan. 8, 8 -10 p.m. Monmouth County Audubon Society: Birds and Wildlife of Australia, Red Bank](#)
- [Jan. 12, 1 -4 p.m. Seashore Open House at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch](#)
- [Jan. 29 11 a.m. -12 p.m. What's New in 2020? Sustainable Jersey Program Updates Webinar](#)

Cut Your Own Grown in Monmouth Christmas Tree!

This holiday season, support local farms and make lasting memories by cutting your own Christmas tree grown right here Monmouth County! Grown in Monmouth farms offer a variety of tree species you can cut fresh from the field like Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce and Blue Spruce, or pick up pre-cut trees like Fraser Fir. Many farms also sell a wide array of holiday decorations like wreaths, kissing balls, swags or grave blankets. Some farms have shops with ornaments, decorations and hot chocolate or host visits with Santa! Use the [Grown in Monmouth Directory](#) to find a farm near you, view hours of operation and visit farm websites to learn about what they have to offer this season.

When you are out in the fields, take a picture of you, your family and/or friends and a Grown in Monmouth Sign to be part of the Grown in Monmouth Holiday Photo contest. Post your photo to the Grown in Monmouth Instagram or Facebook pages by midnight Dec. 24 to be

entered to win. All entrants will earn a coveted "corn pen" for every individual in the photo. During the week of Dec. 30, five winning photos will be randomly selected. The winning photos will be posted and the winners will receive a Grown in Monmouth "swag bag" complete with tumblers, car magnets, t-shirts and more. Review the contest rules [here](#).



Coastal Lakes Observing Network Reports 2019 Summer Water Quality Results

This fall, the [Coastal Lakes Observing Network \(CLONet\)](#) wrapped up the first summer of water quality monitoring at various Monmouth Coastal Lakes. CLONet is a group of citizen scientists, NJDEP representatives and Monmouth University staff and students, investigating the water quality in the Monmouth County coastal lakes.

After securing funding from the Jules L. Plangere, Jr. Family Foundation, Monmouth University purchased portable water quality testing kits and trained citizen stewards on how to use the kits to test the Monmouth County coastal lakes including Deal Lake, Lake Como, Lake Takanassee, Spring Lake, Sunset Lake, Sylvan Lake and Wesley Lake. Citizen scientists were charged with monitoring their coastal lake twice a week throughout the summer. Citizen scientists measured the water temperature, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrate, ammonium and phosphate levels, as well as current and recent weather conditions, and returned the data to Monmouth University for quality control. In November, CLONet met to discuss results. Dr. Jason Adolf reported that factors like water color and pH varied widely across each lake throughout the season. However, overall the waters were found to be warm and turbid.

The data collected by CLONet is intended to improve the understanding of environmental problems in the lakes, like harmful algal blooms (HABs). For example, warm water temperatures are favorable for HABS. The data will also act as a baseline to measure the impacts of restoration projects such as green infrastructure or lake dredging, or from development upstream. CLONet continued to monitor during fall and will continue throughout the winter.

State Efforts to Address Harmful Algal Blooms

The State is offering \$2.5 million in 100% matching funds for lake and harmful algal bloom (HAB) management grants, including treatment and prevention demonstration projects.

Another \$1 million will be allocated for Watershed Grants, for projects and planning efforts to reduce non-point source pollution, including nutrients. Another \$10 million will be available in principal forgiveness grants through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, capped at \$2 million for sewer and stormwater updates to reduce the flow of nutrients to affected water bodies.

The State is also seeking to enhance its capacity to respond to harmful algal bloom events by establishing a team of experts from various sectors to evaluate the State's strategies to prevent HABs, improve monitoring, increase testing and manage data. There are also plans to improve communication and education. In early 2020, NJDEP will host two regional algal bloom summits. The Department is currently preparing new web tools to communicate HAB incidents. Read more [here](#).

Executive Order 92 Increases Offshore Wind Goal

On Nov. 19, Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order 92](#), which increases New Jersey's goal to generate 7,500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind energy by 2035. In 2018, Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order 8](#), which directed State agencies, including the Board of Public Utilities and NJDEP, to take action to achieve the generation of 3,500 MW of offshore wind energy by 2030, in accordance with the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act of 2010. Executive Order 8 also formed the NJ Offshore Wind Inter-agency Task-force, comprised of the BPU, DEP, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), Department of Treasury and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Since 2018, State agencies have accomplished various goals furthering the development of offshore wind. In August, Governor Murphy established the Council for the Wind Innovation and New Development Institute in [Executive Order 79](#). Executive Order 92 changes the goal to 7,500 MW of offshore wind energy production, effective immediately, but does not change any other aspects of Executive Order 8.

Bill Proposes Recycling Market Development Council

[Senate Bill S3939](#), which was combined with Senate Bill S3944 on Nov. 18, proposes to establish the Recycling Market Development Council. The Council would be comprised of eight members. The members would include the NJDEP Commissioner, the State Treasurer or their designees and six appointed citizen members. Three appointees must be actively engaged in the recycling industry, one of which shall be a representative of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers. The three other appointees shall have expertise in the reuse and processing of recycled materials. The NJDEP Commissioner would appoint two of the appointed members as the chairperson and vice-chairperson.

If enacted, the Bill would take effect immediately and require the Council to prepare a report within six months on the existing markets that process, reuse or recycle collected recyclable materials. The Council would also be expected to recommend best management practices to reduce contamination of collected recyclable materials, investigate how to stimulate the use of collected recyclables in newly manufactured products, investigate the feasibility of providing preferences for products with recycled content, including how to stimulate the use

of such products in public projects, and investigate the methods needed to improve competitiveness of the state as an exporter of recyclable materials. Finally, the Council would provide recommendations on changes to State laws, rules or regulations to stimulate the creation of domestic processing facilities and end-use manufacturers of products with recycled content. Once the report is issued, the Council would disassemble.

Green Infrastructure Champion Training

Register for a 10-session training to become certified as a Green Infrastructure (GI) Champion. This course, offered at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, trains individuals to successfully plan and implement green infrastructure as a stormwater management best management practice. Every other Friday from Jan. 17 to May 22, participants will attend one two-hour workshop session. Lessons will cover topics including identifying the need of green infrastructure projects, planning, design, implementation, maintenance, related rules and regulations, GI as it relates to Sustainable Jersey points, GI for schools, retrofitting traditional detention basins, developing GI master plans for entire sites and GI to promote climate resiliency. Attending at least five classes is required for certification. Classes cost \$20 each, or you may register for all ten for \$150. Click [here](#) to learn about last year's program, or [register](#) for the 2020 program.

The Monmouth County Environmental Council Wishes You a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

About This Newsletter

The purpose of the newsletter is to inform Monmouth County citizens on the health of their environment and list environmental outreach events in their community. The newsletter is produced by the Monmouth County Division of Planning Section of Environmental & Sustainability Planning in coordination with the Monmouth County Environmental Council. The County of Monmouth and the Board of Chosen Freeholders do not necessarily share the viewpoints of any environmental group mentioned in this newsletter.

If you have questions, comments, or wish to have an event listed in the newsletter, please contact: Amber.Mallm@co.monmouth.nj.us

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