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Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: October Edition

Monmouth County, NJ sent this bulletin at 10/11/2019 02:57 PM EDT



Ripe apples fill the trees at [Grown in Monmouth](#) Pick Your Own orchards.



Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter: October 2019

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Upcoming Environmental & Outdoor Events in Monmouth County:

Some activities require registration and/or fees:

Upcoming MCEC Roundtable: The Problem with Plastics

Do you want to help reduce plastic pollution? Do you, your friends or neighbors struggle to understand what can and cannot be recycled? If so, join the Monmouth County Environmental Council for a roundtable event to discuss the **"The Problem with Plastics."** The event will include a tabling session focused on initiatives to reduce plastic pollution including successful municipal bans and outreach efforts, as well as a speaker session. Speakers include: NY/NJ Baykeeper to discuss local microplastics research, the Monmouth County Assistant District Recycling Coordinator who will explain the County recycling process, as well as a representative from Atlantic Coast Recycling who will provide insight into the recycling market.

The Monmouth County Environmental Council will also present the latest Eco-Tips brochure focused on tips to reduce plastic consumption and understanding the recycling process. To view other Eco-Tips brochures, click [here](#).

Want to be part of the event? If your environmental commission, Green Team or municipality has taken an action to improve recycling, reduce or ban single-use plastics or reduce litter we want to hear from you! We invite you to highlight your successes during the "Be Part of the Plastic Pollution Solution" tabling session. Participants will be highlighted in the November edition of the the Environmental Newsletter. Email [Amber Mallm](#) to be part of the tabling session and let your efforts shine.

Join the Monmouth County Environmental Council for **"The Problem with Plastics," on October 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Monmouth County Agricultural Building, located at 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold.** This event is free and open to the public. For express sign-in at the event, email [Amber Mallm](#) to register.

- [Oct. 20, 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Thompson Park Day, Lincroft](#)
- [Oct. 22, 10 a.m. -12 p.m. 15th Annual Future of the Ocean Symposium, Monmouth University Long Branch](#)
- [Oct. 26, 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps, various locations](#)
- [Oct. 26, Conserve Wildlife Foundation Halloween and Pet Festival, Leonardo](#)
- [Oct. 28, 6 p.m. Brookdale Community College & Sierra Club's Science Monday Lecture: Shared Plight of Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs, Lincroft](#)
- [Oct. 29, 6 -9 p.m. The Problem with Plastics, Freehold](#)
- [Nov. 2, 8 -10 a.m. Visit a Bird Banding Station, Sandy Hook, M lot](#)
- [Nov. 7, 5 -6:30 p.m. Monmouth County Environmental Council Meeting, Hall of Records Annex, Freehold](#)

Monmouth County Parks System Releases Draft Open Space Plan

The Monmouth County Park System has completed the draft, [Monmouth County Open Space Plan 2019](#) and has begun seeking public comments. The Plan identified priorities for the land preservation program of the Monmouth County Park System and acts as a work plan reference guide for County budgeting for land acquisition. The Plan includes a summary of all park lands owned by the Monmouth County Park system and potential areas for

acquisition and expansion. The Plan also considers climate change, rising sea levels and the protection of natural and historic resources. A PDF copy of the draft Plan is available on the [Monmouth County Open Space Plan Update webpage](#) for public review. Comments may be submitted to [Paul Gleitz](#).



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to announce the partnership between the County's Grown in Monmouth program and Rutgers NJAES to develop a hazelnut farmer demonstration research orchard. Source: Monmouth County.

Grown in Monmouth Partners with Rutgers to Open Hazelnut Demonstration Orchard

After more than 20 years of research and development, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) has developed four cultivars of hazelnut tree plants resistant to a deadly fungal disease. Due to the disease called Eastern Filbert Blight, commercial hazelnut farms on the east coast no longer exist. Through a partnership between Rutgers NJAES and the Monmouth County Division of Economic Development's [Grown in Monmouth](#) program, Monmouth County is now home to the first hazelnut farmer demonstration research orchard east of Oregon. This September, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Rutgers NJAES cut the ribbon on the new orchard located at the Rutgers Cream Ridge Research Extension Center.

According to Rutgers, the world demand for hazelnuts is currently greater than the available supply and most products containing hazelnuts consumed in the U.S. are made with kernels from Turkey. The demonstration farm will allow farmers to learn how to grow hazelnuts locally and provide an opportunity for economic growth of locally sourced products. The farm will also act as site for hands-on learning experiences for Future Farmers of America, County 4-H members and Master Gardeners.

Recent Environmental Bills

[Bill A4492](#), as amended by the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on June 10, 2019, proposes to establish the “Jersey Native Plants Program” in the Department of Agriculture. The bill requires the Department, in conjunction with the State Board of Agriculture, to develop a program that encourages and promotes the sale of New Jersey native plants at retail garden centers and nurseries; increases consumer awareness of the important role of native plants in the ecosystem through advertising campaigns and marketing programs; provides for the dissemination of information about the variety and availability of New Jersey native plants; and create a labeling program to identify plants as “Jersey Natives” similar to the Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown programs.

[Bill A5011](#), passed by the Assembly, received in the Senate and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee on June 10, 2019, proposes to prohibit the manufacture, sale and promotion of all consumer products containing microbeads. Currently, State law places a prohibition on personal care products with microbeads, and the federal "Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015" prohibits the manufacturing, packaging and distribution of rinse-off cosmetics containing microbeads. Bill A5011 expands on both of these laws by including all consumer products.

Sustainable Jersey Offers Grant Opportunity for Energy Projects

Sustainable Jersey, with \$150,000 in contributions from the Gardinier Environmental Fund, is offering a grant cycle for energy projects. Sustainable Jersey registered municipalities and schools are eligible to apply for projects that deal with energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Two \$30,000 grants and nine \$10,000 grants will be awarded. To learn more and to access the online grant application, click [here](#). The application deadline is Thursday Oct. 31, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

Monmouth Conservation Foundation Expands Allaire State Park

This summer, Monmouth Conservation Foundation and the State, through the NJDEP Green Acres Program, purchased 190 acres to expand Allaire State Park. This preservation effort will protect some of the northern most pine barrens habitat, characterized by sandy acidic soil and plant life including rare moss, ferns, pitch pines, holly and laurel. The land is also habitat for species of of special concern including the hooded warbler, great blue heron, barred owl, wood turtle, cooper’s hawk and black crowned night heron. Learn more about this preservation effort as well as Monmouth Conservation Foundation [here](#).

Vote for Your Favorite Sustainable Jersey Green Team Video

As part of Sustainable Jersey's 10th anniversary, the organization is holding its [A Decade of Impact: Green Team Video Contest](#). After receiving video submissions from green teams

throughout the State, Sustainable Jersey narrowed the contest down to the top seven finalists. Now it is up to the public to vote on the winning team. The first place winner will receive \$1,000 and the two-runners up will each receive \$500. The finalists include Monmouth County's very own City of Long Branch. The municipality's submission highlighted efforts including seedling giveaways, balloon release ban ordinance, the town's earth day festival, water bottle filling stations, compost drop-off program, community garden, clean-up events, and invasive species strike team. Other finalists from around the State include Island Heights, Glen Rock, East Brunswick, Berkeley Heights, and Woodbridge. Click [here](#) to view all the videos and cast your vote.



Common Milkweed, is a New Jersey native plant, crucial to the life-cycle of monarch butterflies. Learn about other New Jersey natives at the Jersey Friendly Yards Conference this October.

Jersey Friendly Yards Conference: October 19

Barnegat Bay Partnership and the Ocean County Soil Conservation District is hosting its annual [Jersey Friendly Yards Conference](#) on October 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's theme is "Putting your Jersey-Friendly Yard into Practice." Featured Speaker Pat Sutton, naturalist and author, will showcase native plants and backyard gardening tips to foster habitat for native wildlife. The event includes concurrent workshop sessions focused on various topics including healthy soils, reducing turf grass, creating an edible native garden, and reusing materials to incorporate into your Jersey-Friendly Yard. New Jersey growers will also bring a selection of plants ready for fall planting as part of a native plant sale.

The event opens at 9 a.m. for sign-in, morning refreshments, the native plant sale and exhibits. View the [conference schedule here](#) and learn more about how you can create a Jersey Friendly yard [here](#) by using the [interactive yard tool](#) and browsing the native plant [database](#).

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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