

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Spring 2017

BALD EAGLES IN MILLSTONE: Thanks to Open Space!

The bald eagle population has reached record highs in New Jersey, and our vast open space initiatives have created the necessary habitat for our national symbol. The bald eagle population was negatively impacted by the use of agricultural pesticides, specifically DDT. The bald eagle was listed as an endangered species in 1967 by the Secretary of the Interior, and in 1982 there was only one bald eagle nest in New Jersey! The lingering effects of DDT made it extremely difficult for the birds to survive and produce viable young.

Our state brought eagles from Canada to New Jersey in an attempt to rebuild the disappearing population. Conscious efforts both nationwide and in New Jersey were made to protect the bald eagle which resulted in an amazing recovery. In 2007, the US Fish & Wildlife Services removed the bald eagles from the federal list of threatened and endangered species, but it is still listed as endangered in New Jersey. According to New Jersey's 2016 bald eagle project report, there are 150 active nests statewide producing 216 young.



Photo by Dennis Hansen



Photo by Dennis Hansen

Millstone's aggressive Open Space and Farmland Preservation program in conjunction with our partners on the county and state levels as well as nonprofit conservation groups, have helped us create a niche for the eagle which is abundant with food and shelter. The Millstone Township Environmental Commission developed an ordinance specifically protecting the habitat of all endangered species (animal and plant) from being destroyed by any development of land within the Township. This ordinance was recognized by ANJEC for its merit and as the first of its kind in the state.

Millstone residents through its local boards and commissions continue to enjoy the unique character of our township. How lucky are we to see our national symbol living among us?

Message from Our Chair

Welcome to the Spring issue of the *Millstone Township Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council and Agricultural Advisory Council* newsletter! As chairwoman of the Millstone Township Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council (OSFP), I want to take this opportunity to give residents some insight into the function of the council, its members and accomplishments. It is my pleasure to serve the residents of Millstone and to be a part of a great group of volunteers who work to keep our township such a valuable gem. The council's mission is to work collaboratively with the state, county and nonprofit organizations to preserve, conserve and sustain our land, water and other natural resources throughout Millstone. The OSFP Council consists of nine (9) regular members and two (2) alternates who volunteer their time to preserve farmland and open space. Some members have served on the committee for over ten (10) years, and this year three (3) new members have been added.

The OSFP Council along with our state, county and nonprofit partners have preserved more than 7,000 acres. One of those properties, the Kaut Farm is highlighted in this newsletter.

Most residents know us from our annual clambake which has become a tradition in Millstone. This event is co-sponsored with the Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council. The clambakes have been well received and help the council raise public awareness and money. You will find more information about our 11th Annual Clambake in this newsletter as well as other interesting articles about the OSFP Council's accomplishments and mission. Please continue to support our mission and keep Millstone a great and beautiful town.

Thank you.

Diane Morelli

COME JOIN US

Historic Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
listed on the State and National Registry
512 Stagecoach Road

Restoration made possible through the
Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program

Restoration Celebration

Hosted by The Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties

Sponsored by Millstone Township

JUNE 3RD 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Rain Date: June 4th



OPEN HOUSE * BELL RINGING * HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL * TIME CAPSULE

Make History * Write Memories for the Capsule * Archival Paper & Pencils Provided

TIME CAPSULE to be opened in 2069!

More Information on Website

www.mtfriendsofhistory.org

www.millstonenj.gov

WANT TO JOIN WESTERN MONMOUTH COUNTY TRAIL TEAM?

Calling all interested in blazing trails on local Monmouth County Park System Trails!

Topics include information on trail design, maintenance and safety along with an

Introduction to the Monmouth County Park System.

Contact Tracy Shiffman, Coordinator of Volunteers, to sign up for the next session.

Email volunteer@monmouthcountyparks.com

Phone 732-842-4000 Ext 4283

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS SEASON?

Since 2001, we have been working with our preservation partner, Monmouth County Park System in the purchase of land for Perrineville Lake Park and Charleston Springs Golf Course and Passive Recreation Area, currently totaling 1,998 acres. The Park System is now beginning to offer dynamic programs at Clayton Park in Upper Freehold in the panhandle region: Millstone, Upper Freehold, Allentown and Roosevelt.

CHECK IT OUT!

The Monmouth County Park System invites residents to come out and enjoy the parks and spend time exploring nature or become a Park System volunteer as a trails team member or as a bird steward. Here some offerings to entice you. For more information or more Park System programs, please visit our website at www.MonmouthCountyParks.com. While there, sign to receive the "Parks & Programs Guide."

Butterfly Walk..... Wednesday, May 31, 10:30-11:30 AM (ages 7 & up, under 18 with adult)

Clayton Park Activity Center, Upper Freehold

Learn to identify beautiful butterflies found in the field at Clayton Park with a Park System Naturalist.

Roving Naturalist..... Saturday, June 3, 9:00 AM (all ages)

Emley's Hill Road parking lot, Upper Freehold

Join the Roving Naturalist for a leisurely walk in Clayton Park. We will explore and discuss seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife and identify a bird or two. Dress for the weather as a light rain is not a deterrent.

The Casual Birder..... Thursday, July 20, 9:00-10:00 AM (ages 8 & up)

Clayton Park Activity Center, Upper Freehold

Join a Park System Naturalist for a laid-back morning bird-walk. We will meander the park for about one hour to see what birds we can find. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy the walk. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed.

Box Nesting Bird Steward Saturday, November 4, 10:00 AM (ages 12 & up with adult)

Clayton Park Activity Center, Upper Freehold

Become a Bird Steward for the Park System by attending this workshop. We need individuals or groups who would like to help build bird boxes, set them out, monitor the birds through the season, then clean out the boxes and get them ready for the next season. This workshop will provide information about the birds, bird box kits to be build, a map for locating the bird box and how to monitor. The boxes to be built are for bluebirds, purple martins, kestrels and wood ducks. Contact Coordinator of Volunteers Tracy Shiffman to find out more or to sign up at Volunteer@MonmouthCountyParks.com.

OUR LATEST FARM PRESERVED!

On March 20, 1952 Harry W. Kaut and his parents, Emily and Harry L. Kaut bought the farm from Oscar and Rita Gude. Other previous owners included Ezekiel Norris (1863) and Charlie Thompson. Back then the land was surveyed by using links and chains — large stones marked the corners of the property. The stones are still present today!

Harry W. and his newly wed wife, Joyce, took up farming. They grew potatoes initially, then switched to tomatoes. The farm consisted of 76 acres on both sides of Route 524, Stagecoach Road. On the north side sat the original farmhouse (still existing), a packing house, a barn housing equipment and a labor housing unit (since torn down). Harry Kaut, the couple's son who was named after his father and grandfather, remembers his parents picking tomatoes at night by the headlights of cars lined up in the field. The tomatoes were packed, loaded into trucks or wagons, driven to Camden and then his dad waited in long lines to unload at the Campbell's factory. The Campbell Company took all they could get to make their popular tomato soup!

Today Harry leases his field to a local farmer who rotates growing soybeans, corn, sorghum and straw.

On October 29, 2015 the Kaut Family signed the documents and placed the family farm, south of Route 524, 55.82 acres into the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program. It is the 28th farm preserved in Millstone Township, bringing Millstone's total farmland preservation acreage to 1,234.9 acres. Thank you, Kaut Family, for preserving our agricultural heritage and ensuring farmland to produce food for our future generations.



SAVING THE HORSE:

As June approaches, we are reminded of the New Jersey state animal which is the **Horse**. For those of us who live in Monmouth County and specifically, Millstone Township, we recognize the importance of this animal to our quality of life. Coming home to fields of crops growing and horses and their foals grazing, creates the foundation for our quality of life and a peaceful sense of well-being. Our preservation program has been instrumental in providing the groundwork needed for its existence.

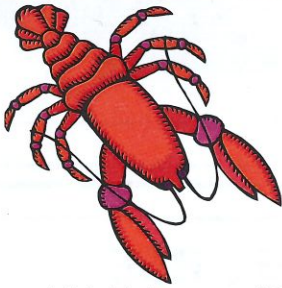
Over the last several years we have witnessed a significant decline in the horse industry in Monmouth County as well as the state of New Jersey, which at one time had more horses per square mile than any other state in the nation. How and why did this happen? The answers to these questions are complicated and frankly, not very complimentary to the numerous entities responsible for protecting and promoting the industry. The lack of

educational programs that can get the general public to understand the importance of the horse industry and its impact on so many different areas has been detrimental.

The role of the horse today has changed dramatically. They are no longer needed to plow fields or transport goods. Racing as a sport is dying with every minute that goes by. Horses still however play a great role in building character and teaching children responsibility, commitment, and compassion. The role of the horse has expanded greatly in serving the needs of handicapped children and adults with varying physical, psychological and addiction problems. Several state youth detention facilities have incorporated the horse into their rehabilitation programs to help develop the character and responsibility of the young men and women. Successful programs are developing in Millstone and throughout Monmouth utilizing the horse therapeutically for our returning military personnel. These programs have had great success in saving lives and creating a sense of hope for those in distress. The horse will always have a role in our society and be an important factor in preserving our open spaces and agricultural farmland.

Millstone Township, NJ 08510
Resident

Millstone Township, NJ 08510
470 Stage Coach Road
Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council
Agricultural Advisory Council
Township of Millstone



11th Annual Clambake Fundraiser

Sponsored by the Agricultural Advisory Council and the
Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council

Sunday **June 11, 2017** at **Wagner Farm Park**

Adult Tickets are \$32.00 if purchased before May 30th.

Choice of 4 items from the menu and one dessert item:

- Lobster with an ear of corn
- 6 Shrimp Cocktail
- 6 Roasted Clams
- 6 Clams on 1/2 Shell
- 12 Steamers
- BBQ Pork Sandwich with a side of cole slaw
- Hot Dog
- Hamburger

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Contact Lori Maher at (732) 446-4249 x 1103 or
L-Maher@millstonenj.gov to purchase tickets or if you would like additional information.

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

George Asprocolas, Chairperson

Randy Peck, Vice Chairperson

Pat Butch

Tom Dancer

Shirley Pinhas

Kate Posten

Nancy A. Grbelja,

Township Committee Liaison

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Pat Butch, Vice Chairperson

George Asprocolas

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Millstone Township
e-Bulletins by e-mail at
www.millstonenj.gov