

Sustainable Raritan River Mini-Conference

Duke Farms, Coach Barn, Hillsborough

December 5, 2013

Agenda

7:00 AM Guided Bird Walk

Winter Birds along the Raritan River

Thom Almendinger, Director of Stewardship, Duke Farms

There is a reason Duke Farms was one of the first designated Important Bird Areas (IBA) in New Jersey. Join us to find out why and see the year-round resident birds as well as those wintering at Duke Farms.

8:00 AM Registration, Continental Breakfast and Exhibits*

8:45 AM Welcome

Sara Malone, Research Associate, Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, Rutgers

Judy Shaw, Director, Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, Rutgers

Michael Catania, Executive Director, Duke Farms Foundation

9:00 AM Getting Close to the Raritan – Public Access

Raritan River Public Access Overview

Bill Schultz, Raritan Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper Schultz will speak of the available launch locations for paddle craft on the lower Raritan River from Branchburg to the Raritan Bay. He will identify some of the problems with river access and identify some resolutions that are proposed and others that are underway.

Current Issues in Public Access

Debbie Mans, Baykeeper and Executive Director, New York/New Jersey Baykeeper

Discussion will include the implementation of the recently adopted NJDEP public access rule and its implications for our northern coast, private-public partnerships creating public access and a broader look at public access issues within the NY-NJ Harbor.

Funding for Public Access in the Raritan Region

Patricia Ruby, Executive Director, Hunterdon Land Trust

Ms. Ruby will present an overview of options for creating public access through land acquisition and give an update on funding available for public access projects.

10:20 AM Break

10:30 AM What's the Long-Range Forecast for the Raritan Region? – Climate Resiliency

Climate Projections

Anthony Broccoli, Co-Director, Rutgers Climate Institute, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Dr. Broccoli will discuss the changes in New Jersey's climate that have been observed over the past century and the expected changes that lie ahead. Specific impacts of climate change for the Raritan River watershed will be discussed.

Tools for Assessing Risk and Planning for Resiliency

Richard Lathrop, Grant Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Dr. Lathrop will discuss the availability of various web-based tools for coastal flood exposure assessment and resiliency planning. While coastal in focus, examples from the lower Raritan basin will be included. He will also discuss his long-term objective of expanding these tools to include interior watersheds.

Climate Resiliency and Communities

Jeanne Herb, Associate Director, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey

Ms. Herb will provide an overview of efforts of the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance and resources that are available to Raritan River communities to plan for and adapt to a changing climate.

Noon Lunch & Dam Removal Video and Discussion

Nevius Street Dam Removal (video starts at 12:25 pm)

John Jengo, Principal Hydrogeologist, MWH Americas, Inc. & Dam Removal Project Manager

Mr. Jengo will present a 12-minute video highlighting the July-August 2013 demolition and removal of the Nevius Street Dam, which supplied water to the renowned Duke Farms lake system, followed by a short Q&A. This project, the third in a series of dam removals on the Raritan River, was complementary with the environmental stewardship principles of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, while serving to restore the river's natural flow, reestablish migratory fish passage to historic spawning areas, restore riverine habitat, enhance recreational uses, and improve water quality of New Jersey's longest interior river system.

12:45 PM Preserving Priority Habitats: From Planning to Project Implementation

Michael Catania, Executive Director, Duke Farms Foundation -- Moderator

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

Anne Heasley, Vice President, Conservation Resources & RPWHP Coordinator

James Waltman, Executive Director, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

The Raritan Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership (RPWHP) is an innovative public private partnership that has focused on preserving and enhancing critical wildlife habitats within the Central Piedmont Plains region of New Jersey, most of which is

within the Raritan watershed. In this workshop, Anne Heasley and Jim Waltman will unveil and summarize the new RPWHP Comprehensive Conservation Plan. This plan identifies the priority grasslands, forests, wetlands and riparian corridors where the Partnership will focus its conservation efforts, as well as the strategies which partners will use to preserve and enhance these habitats.

Restoration, Stormwater

Thom Almendinger, Director of Stewardship, Duke Farms

William Kibler, Director of Policy and Science, Raritan Headwaters Association

Following the RPWHP presentation, Bill Kibler and Thom Almendinger will discuss several wetlands restoration case studies, and discuss the specific benefits which these projects have provided in terms of stormwater management and flood control, as well as enhancement of some of the priority wildlife habitats featured in the new RPWHP plan.

Working Tour

Take a walk with the afternoon presenters to see the restoration work that has been done at Duke Farms to restore wetlands and improve stormwater management while improving habitat along the Raritan corridor.

3:00 PM **Adjourn**

***Exhibits will be open 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Exhibits will be related to recreation, trails, public access and river clean-up activities in the Raritan River region.**