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## Annual Meeting Scheduled for Rutgers EcoComplex

**P**op Quiz!

Is the Rutgers EcoComplex:

- A) Rutgers University's Environmental Research and Extension Center?; or
- B) The nation's first research, technology development, teaching and outreach center that is dedicated to enhancing the environment and agriculture through education, outreach and "green" business development?; or
- C) A multi-institutional, multidisciplinary environmental center that harnesses research and education resources towards the development, and industrial application, of innovative environmental technologies?; or
- D) All of the above?

The answer, of course, is D—All of the Above! To see for yourself, join us November 17 at the EcoComplex for a tour and discussion of the ongoing research activities there.

The mission of the EcoComplex is to promote economic development in the environmental arena, including the remediation and protection of environmental quality, and the compatible sectors of food and innovative agriculture. The Center is a partnership with the Burlington County Board of Freeholders, which performs research and develops new technologies to address the pressing environmental, solid waste, and resource-recovery issues faced in New Jersey. The EcoComplex functions as a hub of education and outreach for the entire environmental community.

Environmental innovation is a springboard for economic development. The EcoComplex is dedicated to moving science from the lab to real-world applications in our state's businesses and industries, and to promoting New Jersey as a center for environmental innovation and enterprises.

*(Continued on page 3)*



# President's Corner

By Angelo Caruso

It's hard to believe that we are into October already. This year has been the fastest on record. I've hardly had time to act presidential. But, that's because I've been supported by a group of motivated individuals who are dedicated to making the Firman E. Bear Chapter the best it can be. Officers, committee chairs and members have all made contributions in time and effort to get things done.

Our spring tour to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge was a success. We had several members contribute their time at the NJ Envirothon. We sponsored a CEPSC workshop and exam resulting in 15 additional district employees achieving their CEPSC Certification. We are also planning an informative Fall Meeting and Tour at the Rutgers Eco Complex in Bordentown, NJ. I hope all of you can attend.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President. I wish to thank all those individuals who worked so hard to make this year a success.

## SWCS Mission Statement

The Soil and Water Conservation Society fosters the science and the art of soil, water and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability.

We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment.

## Reminder

Chapter dues are \$6 annually, and regular members are billed as part of their annual renewals with SWCS.

Life members are asked to forward their \$6 annual dues payment directly to the Chapter Treasurer, Dan Mull, at 220 Davidson Ave 4th Floor, Somerset NJ 08873.

## Submissions Policy

Newsletter articles are welcome on topics of interest to the Chapter. Articles may be submitted by email to:

Janice Reid,  
[jrunthrow@comcast.net](mailto:jrunthrow@comcast.net)  
by the following deadlines:

Winter issue: **January 5**  
Spring issue: **April 5**  
Summer issue: **July 5**  
Fall issue: **October 5**

## 2006 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President—Angelo Caruso	(201) 261-4407	<a href="mailto:bergenscd@attglobal.net">bergenscd@attglobal.net</a>
Pres.-Elect—Evan Madlinger	(908) 782-4614	<a href="mailto:evan.madlinger@nj.usda.gov">evan.madlinger@nj.usda.gov</a>
Past Pres.—Nancy Paolini	(732) 537-6056	<a href="mailto:nancy.paolini@nj.usda.gov">nancy.paolini@nj.usda.gov</a>
Secretary—Ernie Thurlow	(908) 526-2701	<a href="mailto:thurlow@co.somerset.nj.us">thurlow@co.somerset.nj.us</a>
Treasurer—Christine Snyder	(908) 496-4244	<a href="mailto:sjnyder@nac.net">sjnyder@nac.net</a>
Council—Ines Grimm	(732) 683-8500	<a href="mailto:inesgrimm@freeholdsoil.org">inesgrimm@freeholdsoil.org</a>
Tom Morgart	( )	<a href="mailto:thomas.morgart@md.usda.gov">thomas.morgart@md.usda.gov</a>
Laura Coover	(732) 462-0075	<a href="mailto:laura.coover@nj.usda.gov">laura.coover@nj.usda.gov</a>

## 2006 Committee Chairs

Awards - Tim Dunne	(908) 735-0733	<a href="mailto:tim.dunne@nj.usda.gov">tim.dunne@nj.usda.gov</a>
CPESC - Ernest Thurlow	(908) 526-2701	<a href="mailto:thurlow@co.somerset.nj.us">thurlow@co.somerset.nj.us</a>
Chapter Display - Meg Scott	(732) 462-1079	<a href="mailto:mikemegscott@yahoo.com">mikemegscott@yahoo.com</a>
Fund Raising - David Smart	(732) 537-6051	<a href="mailto:david.smart@nj.usda.gov">david.smart@nj.usda.gov</a>
Development - Carl DuPoldt	(609) 561-3223	<a href="mailto:carl.dupoldt@nj.usda.gov">carl.dupoldt@nj.usda.gov</a>
Newsletter - Janice Reid	(732) 462-1079	<a href="mailto:jrunthrow@comcast.net">jrunthrow@comcast.net</a>
Recruitment - Victor DeVasto	(609) 582-9027	<a href="mailto:vic@zeus.jersey.net">vic@zeus.jersey.net</a>
Scholarship - Betsy Clarke	(609) 561-3223	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.clarke@nj.usda.gov">elizabeth.clarke@nj.usda.gov</a>
Webmaster - Nancy Paolini	(732) 537-6056	<a href="mailto:nancy.paolini@nj.usda.gov">nancy.paolini@nj.usda.gov</a>

# Rutgers EcoComplex

(Continued from page 1)

## Agricultural and Environmental Research Endeavors

The EcoComplex conducts research involving all aspects related to landfill gas recovery and utilization, that is, using methane as an energy source, as well as recovering carbon dioxide for enrichment of the aerial environment in controlled-environment agriculture, or for industrial use. The renewable energy resource may be used for heat production and to generate electricity: from heating homes and businesses to providing power for controlled-environment agriculture. The recovery and utilization of landfill methane and carbon dioxide also mitigates the emission of greenhouse gases to the our atmosphere, and that's good for our environment.

The EcoComplex's one-acre greenhouse is a commercial, real-life demonstration of landfill gas cogeneration at work. The greenhouse, office, and lab spaces at the facility are heated by landfill gas, as are the aquaculture and agriculture systems that allow for year-round production of food crops.

Through monitoring **landfill bioactivity**; categorizing **waste materials**; estimating life cycles of and categorizing **consumer electronics**; investigating how to **demanufacture** electrical equipment; analyzing **methane production**; and studying **landfill gas cleanup**, we are learning

more each day about landfill gas as a resource.

New crops for biomass production are being investigated at the EcoComplex as well as intensive, year-round crop production. These efforts work in conjunction with New Jersey's Open Space Preservation Program to ensure the continued viability of agriculture in New Jersey in light of the changing marketplace.

The EcoComplex is also exploring **ethanol production** in New Jersey as a renewable fuel source for automobiles. Locally grown field corn, plant biomass, and municipal solid wastes are being considered as feedstocks for the ethanol.

**New, clean-burning, power-generating equipment** such as fuel cells and microturbines (fueled by landfill gas) are demonstrated at the EcoComplex. The environmental and economical benefits of these technologies are available for homes and businesses to see firsthand.

Our **statewide environmental center** conducts scale-up demonstrations for new environmental processes and showcases New Jersey's cutting-edge environmental research and technologies.

Through **environmental technology demonstrations**, we verify effectiveness of new technological developments and provide investors and entrepreneurs with value

assessments of new technologies. This enhances the performance and commercial viability of new environmental technologies.

On February 28 2006 the EcoComplex hosted a renewable energy symposium. Several of the presentations made that day are available on the EcoComplex website, [http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/program\\_areas\\_renewable\\_energy.php](http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/program_areas_renewable_energy.php). They include:

- [Emerging Technologies - Energy Crops](#) (Dave Specca)
- [Solar Energy Experience - A Farmer's Perspective](#) (Greg Donaldson)
- [Earth Pledge - Anaerobic Digestion](#) (Greg Loosvelt)
- [Solar Energy](#) (Lyle Rawlings)
- [Geothermal Energy and Solar Thermal for Farms](#) (Lynn Stiles)
- [State Incentives for Energy Efficiency](#) (Mona Mosser)
- [Wind Power for New Jersey Farms: Technology and Economics](#) (Dr. Peter Jansson)
- [Energy Economics 101: Getting to an Apples-to-Apples Comparison](#) (Dr. Robin Brumfield)
- [Renewable Energy in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program](#) (Scott Hunter)
- [Energy Conservation and Efficiency](#) (Tom Manning)
- [USDA Rural Development - Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Program](#) (Victoria Fekete)

Join us November 17 to learn more about all of these efforts! See registration details on page 4 of this issue.

# Chapter Annual Meeting!

## Rutgers EcoComplex Columbus NJ

Friday  
November 17, 2006

The Rutgers Eco Complex is Rutgers University's Environmental Research and Extension Center located at 1200 Florence-Columbus Road, Bordentown, NJ. This state of the art facility features an environmentally friendly building, aquaculture tilapia fish breeding, hydroponics greenhouse and utilizes landfill extracted gas to generate energy. Join us for an informational tour and discussion.

### Directions:

**From I-295**—Exit 52A (Columbus). EcoComplex is large green building on RIGHT just past the first light.

**From NJ Turnpike**—Take Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South. Stay on Rt. 206 S. for about 3.5 miles (Past exit for Hedding); Exit Rt. 206 S. at Columbus-Burlington Exit (Rt. 543). At stop sign make RIGHT onto Rt. 543 West. Travel about 2 miles to the EcoComplex (large green building on LEFT), before the second light.

**From Route 206 Northbound**—Take Route 206 North past Columbus Farmer's Market. Exit for the town of Columbus approx. one mile north of market. At traffic light make LEFT onto Rt. 543 West (also called Main St.). EcoComplex is large green building on LEFT, before the second light.

9:30 - 10:30 AM: Registration & Continental Breakfast

10:30 - 12:00 PM: Tour of the Eco Complex Facility

12:00 - 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 PM: SWCS Annual Business Meeting

2:30 PM: Adjourn

Cost (includes registration,  
breakfast, lunch and tour):

for SWCS members - \$22.00

for non members - \$25.00

### REGISTRATION

Please return by **November 9, 2006**

Send registration form and check (made payable to "Firman E. Bear Chapter, SWCS") to:

Evan Madlinger, c/o USDA-NRCS, 687 Pittstown Road, Suite 2, Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable: Firman E. Bear Chapter, SWCS)

# Annual Ecological Excellence Awarded to Environmental Quality Resources

The Firman E. Bear Chapter of SWCS/ Pinelands Nursery Ecological Excellence Award for 2005 was presented to **Environmental Quality Resources** of Gaithersburg, Maryland at the Pineland Nursery Restoration Symposium on March 8, 2006 in Columbus, NJ.

Environmental Quality Resources, LLC (EQR) is a multi-disciplinary, environmental, science-based company that specializes in applied ecology, stream quality, forestry, wetlands and storm water management. EQR is an interdisciplinary company with ecologists, landscape architects, engineers, construction specialists and more.

Rick Scaffidi, Vice President of Construction made a presentation about the award winning Ware Ave. public marina facility in Cumberland County that EQR constructed. The project involved unique streambank stabilization measures and had to deal with difficult construction conditions such as the tidal fluctuations. Rick explained how they used innovative construction techniques and geotextiles to construct the project. Native plants were used to stabilize the site and beautify the finished product.

The annual award program, facilitated by the Firman E. Bear Chapter of SWCS and funded by Pinelands Nursery, has provided awards to professionals in the ecological restoration field since 1999.

For information on the award program and applications for 2006 awards go to the Firman E. Bear website at <http://www.geocities.com/njswcs/> and click on the "Ecological Excellence" tabs. Applications are due by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

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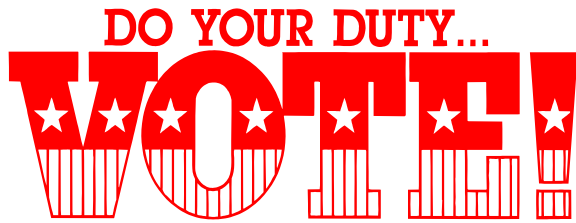
## \$1,000 Memorial Conservation Scholarships

The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts will be awarding two \$1,000 Memorial Conservation Scholarships in November.

All applicants must:

- Be a New Jersey resident
- Be a full time student in good standing at an accredited college
- Have successfully completed at least four full semesters of study by the fall of 2006
- Be an undergraduate enrolled in a major curriculum of agriculture or natural resource conservation including: agricultural education, agronomy, environmental engineering, environmental science, forestry, geography, journalism, plant science, soil science, wildlife or fisheries management and other related majors

Applications can be obtained by contacting Freehold Soil Conservation District at 732-683-8500 or online at [www.freeholdscd.org](http://www.freeholdscd.org). **Application deadline is October 23, 2006.**



# 2007 Council Elections

This fall, the Chapter will elect members to serve in the following positions:

**President-Elect**, to serve for one year, and to automatically rise to position of President in 2008. The President-Elect is responsible for organizing the spring meeting and assisting the President as needed.

Vote for ONE:

**David Clapp**

Dave is an Ag Resource Specialist (planner) with the NJ Department of Ag, working out of the Hackettstown NRCS office.

**David Schaaf**

Dave is an Agricultural Conservation Specialist employed by the Mercer County Soil Conservation District to provide technical services to Warren, Morris, and Sussex counties.

**other:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary**, to serve for one year. The Secretary takes meeting minutes and handles correspondence for the Chapter.

Vote for ONE:

**Ernest Thurlow**

Ernie is the District Manager for the Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District. Dr. Thurlow has served as Chapter Secretary since 1999.

**Other:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

three years. Council Members bring ideas and energy to the council, and assist with all aspects of Chapter management.

Vote for ONE:

**Meg Scott**

Meg is a former NRCS employee currently raising two young children in Ocean County. She was a past-council member and likes to stay current with agricultural and environmental issues.

**Other:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return Ballots to: Ron Taylor, c/o NRCS, 220 Davidson Ave 4th Floor, Somerset NJ 08873.  
OR, bring completed ballots to the Annual Chapter Meeting on November 17.

**Council Member**, to serve for

## CPESC Exam Results

*Submitted by Ernie Thurlow*

The CPESC Exam was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Freehold SCD Office. We had 19 individuals take the Exam including several who took only the first part to get the "In Training" certification. The group included mainly District employees but there were several consultants and two individuals from Long Island, NY. Andy Graybush and I proctored the all-day exam and the tests were returned to CPESC.

We are happy to report that we now have 15 new CPESC's to the New Jersey listing for a total of 27 in the State. CPESC indicated that was a high percentage of individuals passing the test. There is interest in another testing session from some who did not apply. If there are more individuals qualified to take the test, another Exam session could be scheduled for the winter or spring of 2007. Contact me if you or anyone you know is interested.

# Small Grants Available for Non-Profit Conservation Groups

Conservation Resources Inc., Sept. 13, 2006

Conservation Resources Inc. (CRI) announced that it will be making its first round of small grants to non-profit organizations.

These grants are designed to provide assistance to exemplary non-profit land acquisition, stewardship and restoration projects which are featured in CRI's Geographic Funds. The purpose of these grants is to provide seed money for the initiation of projects, to help cover



certain costs which are not fully reimbursable by other existing grant programs, such as appraisal and survey expenses, and to provide matching funds to support non-profit

Funding for these small grants has been provided by the William Penn Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation,

and the Victoria Foundation, as well as individual donors.

## Eligibility and Grant Award Criteria

Eligibility for small grants is limited to projects which are featured in CRI's Geographic Funds as of September 21, 2006. To find out how to have a project featured, please visit: {1}.

Small grants will range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$10,000, with the majority of grants in the \$2,500 to \$5,000 range;

Small grants may be used only for specific purposes related to project initiation or leverage of other project funding, such as the costs of appraisals, surveys, closing costs or other items which are only partially reimbursable through existing public funding sources, and expenses necessary to satisfy matching grant requirements for small stewardship or restoration grants available through such public programs as the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Partners for Wildlife, Landowner Incentives Program;

Preference for small grants will be given to featured projects which: (1) have demonstrated superior initiative and progress; (2) provide higher leverage of CRI's small grant funds; (3) demonstrate innovation or creativity in deal structure, range or nature of partnerships, or sources of

funding; and (4) are being undertaken by small and intermediate-sized land trusts or other conservation organizations;

The Fall 2006 grant awards will seek to include a mix of projects from around the State which include: "seed funding" awards to help jump-start projects; awards to help non-profits cover un-reimbursed project costs for featured projects which are under contract or which have recently closed; and highly-leveraged matching small grants for stewardship or restoration projects.

To apply and to learn more about the grant award process, please visit: {2}.

{1} <http://www.conservationresourcesinc.org/selectioncriteria.htm>

{2} <http://www.conservationresourcesinc.org/smallgrants.htm>



*Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Sunday October 29!  
Remember to "Fall Back"  
One Hour.....*

# Upcoming Events:

## November 2006:

- 11/04 - 11/08 Soil Science of America International Annual Mtg, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 11/06/2006 - 11/09/2006 Am Water Resources Assn 2006 Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD
- 11/12 - 11/16 Crop Science Society of America International Conf, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 11/28/2006 - 11/30/2006 Innovations in Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution, Indianapolis, Indiana

## December 2006:

- 12/09 - 12/13 Restore America's Estuaries' National Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 10/2006 - 12/13/2006 The Third National Conference on Grazing Lands, St. Louis, MO

## January 2007:

- 01/21 - 01/24 Composting council 15th Annual Conference, Orlando Florida
- 01/22 - 01/25 Int'l Conf Remediation of Contaminated Sediments, Savannah, Georgia

Information about these events can be found at:  
[www.swcs.org/en/calendar\\_of\\_events\\_and\\_resources](http://www.swcs.org/en/calendar_of_events_and_resources)

# Life Membership Rates Available

**S**WCS has Life Memberships available to our members. The member must have maintained a consistent membership with SWCS for a minimum of 10 years and be over the age of 50 years old to qualify. The rates are as follows:

50-54	\$4800
55-59	\$3400
60-64	\$2200
65+	\$1600

An application may be requested through an email to [memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org).

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**Firman E. Bear Chapter**  
**Soil and Water Conservation Society**  
**220 Davidson Ave 4th Floor**  
**Somerset NJ 08873**

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