

Shark River Cleanup Coalition Membership Application

The SRCC is a non profit 501 c(3) corporation. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Enclosed is my check for:

Junior, Student or Senior (under 18 or over 65)	\$25 per year _____
Individual Member	\$52 per year _____
Family Membership	\$120 per year _____
Sponsoring Family Membership	\$365 per year _____
Business Donor	\$250 per year _____
Business Sponsor (Free one year ad on our web site)	\$500 per year _____
Donation Only (any amount)	\$ _____



Please make checks payable to: SRCC P.O. Box 2241 Neptune City, NJ 07754
Phone 732-775-7916 New Jersey Charity Registration Number CH 2165700



Shark River Cleanup Coalition Inc.
P.O. Box 2241
Neptune City, New Jersey 07754

Address Correction Requested



LEADING THE WAY

Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Shark River Cleanup Coalition Inc. is to significantly enhance the water quality of the Shark River Estuary and its fresh water tributaries, to improve and protect habitats important to the conservation and abundance of the wildlife, to protect the recreational and commercial uses from degradation and pollution, thereby ensuring the ecological and economical stability of this important watershed

For more information please contact us at:

Shark River Cleanup Coalition Inc
P.O. Box 2241
Neptune City, New Jersey 07754
732-775-7196

Check us out online at:
www.sharkriver.org

President Perspective

The last several months have been very productive and gratifying. In May we held our first every fundraiser "Riverfest". It was a sell out and then some. Over 180 people attended and everyone had a wonderful time. A list of the local businesses that contributed to the event is on our website.

Speaking of the website, all of our members should take the time to visit our brand new website. The site has all of our latest events, water monitoring results and weekly photos by Nancy Smith. Nancy kayaks the river daily and takes the most interesting pictures of the wildlife I have ever seen.

Our membership mailer that went out to all of the homes in the watershed is getting great response and our membership ranks are growing daily. Donations and memberships are what keep the SRCC moving forward. Without them we couldn't exist.

We are fighting to make all new development in the watershed comply with the new stormwater pollution regulations adopted by the NJDEP. These regulations only apply to residential construction. Commercial construction would have to require a DEP permit to have to comply with the new rules unless a municipality adopts stricter regulations on their own.

I'm proud to say that Neptune Township, my town, was the first municipality in the state to adopt the new regulations and we are working with Tinton Falls and Wall to adopt them as well. After the rules are adopted all new development will have to clean stormwater before it discharges, recharge some of the water into the ground and limit clear cutting and compaction of soil among other things. All of these practices will help to improve our water quality and water quantity.

With your support we will continue to advocate for clean water and the protection of the wildlife in the Shark River Watershed.

Sincerely

Brian Hegarty, President

Education in Schools

Written by Paul Gately

Last December we were contacted by Mr. John Berman who teaches an advanced studies program at H.W. Mountz school in Spring Lake. The class had selected Shark River for their yearly project. A presentation was given in December by Brian Hegarty that showed how the river is degraded through non-point pollution and the effects that follow. We volunteered to assist the class with information that would help them to understand any aspect of their studies of the river. The requests for more information was overwhelming. The topics included: estuaries, the moon's effect on tides, frogs, plants, horseshoe crabs, dredging, erosion, water quality testing to name a few. Every inquiry was answered, and relevant web sites or books were recommended. From the responses that I received, the class did very well with the information provided.

September starts a new school year. I would like to expand on what was a one school project to include all schools in our area. A presentation tailored to be age appropriate and to meet scheduling needs of the individual class. I will be contacting schools in the next few months explaining what we can offer them to make their students aware of the importance of a clean Shark River. If you know of a school that would be interested or if you have any comments, please e-mail me at Pmgately@aol.com 🌊

Clean Marina Initiative

Written by Scottie Franklin

The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 required all coastal states to develop Coastal Non point Source Programs to address polluted runoff within the coastal zone. Among many other sources, this includes storm water runoff from boatyards, drips from fuel docks, discharges from marine heads and fish waste from recreational anglers.

In keeping with this requirement, New Jersey has developed and is implementing the Clean Marina Initiative. New Jersey's marinas have been given an opportunity to avoid regulation by voluntarily adopting pollution prevention practices. The initiative is distributing a Guide Book which provides an overview of actions that marine industry professionals can take to protect water and air quality.

Marinas adopting a significant proportion of the best management practices suggested in the guidebook will be recognized as Clean Marinas, and will receive a certificate acknowledging their environmentally responsible actions.

It is the intention of the Shark River Cleanup Coalition to distribute information and guidebooks to marinas in the Shark River. We will follow up with personal visits and offer encouragement to operators with the sincere hope that all will do their best to come on line. 🌊

Water Monitoring

Written by Jim McNamara

The SRCC began monitoring the Shark River Brook, Jumping Brook and Shark River Bay on June 8, 2004 and will continue the monitoring for the next 20 weeks. SRCC will test for fecal bacteria using the DEP's new Enterococcus method of testing on the marine waters of the Shark River Bay and Fecal Coliform testing on the fresh waters of the Shark River Brook and Jumping Brook.

Enterococcus and Fecal Coliform are organisms found in the intestines of many warm-blooded animals, including humans. Elevated levels of Enterococcus and Fecal Coliform in the water by themselves may not be harmful, but it suggests that parasites and pathogens may also be present. If these parasites and pathogens are inadvertently ingested or come in contact with an open wound while swimming or consumed through tainted drinking water, they can cause a variety of diseases. The most common illness is gastroenteritis with flu-like symptoms, but more dangerous diseases/illnesses can develop especially in children and immune-compromised adults. Diseases/illnesses include cholera, hepatitis, typhoid, ear and throat infections and parasites.

The state standard for Enterococcus in marine waters is 104 colonies per 100-ml sample and 200 colonies per 100-ml sample for Fecal Coliform. To give you an idea of the problem we are facing, the Monmouth County Dept. of Health got a reading of 5,800 Enterococcus on 6/1/04 at the L street beach on the Shark River Bay in Belmar, that's over 55 times the beach closure rate.

SRCC testing which is conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays shows that every test day three out of five of the tests spots in the bay are over the 104 limit. In some locations counts as high as 2000 are present daily. It should be noted that this is not polluted stormwater flushing into the bay during rain events but average counts on dry days. You can view the results as they are posted on our website at www.sharkriver.org

Our goal is to identify sources of fecal bacteria polluting our waterways and correct any problems as they are identified. As you can imagine, an undertaking of this magnitude will require many man-hours. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer on our water monitoring staff please contact Jim McNamara at 732-539-2033. 🌊

Which water filter is right for you?

Written by Jim McNamara

I recently called NJ American Water Company and asked about the quality of our drinking water here in Neptune. I was amazed at the amount of contaminants that are tested and treated, but even more amazed that NJ law does not require testing for synthetic organic chemicals and pesticides. Despite that fact, NJ American Water Company says our water is safe and all water quality tests meet EPA standards. But once you know the effects of cryptosporidium cysts in

drinking water, which can cause flu-like symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and stomach cramps its enough to scare you into running out and buying a water filter today. Needless to say, that's exactly what I did.

My first task was to search the Internet and learn how filters work, who makes them, and how much they cost. I immediately learned that water purification and filtration is one of those topics that can get technical very quickly. My search results revealed that water filtration can be as simple as buying a Brita water pitcher to a sophisticated whole house, Reverse Osmosis system. The Brita water pitcher does a good job in eliminating chlorine, sediment, calcium, and zinc, all of which can cause strange tastes and odors in tap water, and was inexpensive at about \$20. One drawback to pitchers is their limited volume. Consumers get tired of constantly filling them, as tap water trickles through the filter. My search revealed a good alternative to the pitcher is a faucet mounted filter. These type filters use the same technology as pitchers, but attach directly to your existing faucet, allowing water to be filtered directly from the tap. The next category of filters were under the sink filtration systems. These systems use larger and sometimes multiple filters to extract more impurities from the water than pitchers and faucet mounted filters. Lines can also be run to your refrigerator or icemaker.

Lastly, are the Reverse Osmosis systems. These systems use three types of filters to remove nearly all contaminants including bacteria, viruses and cysts. The other type filters work by extracting particles from the water. A Reverse Osmosis system actually pulls the water out of the impurities. These larger systems can get expensive and require more complicated maintenance. They also consume a lot of water, for every gallon of purified water produced, two gallons are wasted.

Having acquired all this newfound knowledge, it was time to go shopping. I stopped by the Lowe's Home Center Warehouse, on Route 9 in Howell. The store had a good selection of the various type filters mentioned above. I purchased the under the sink type filter from Omni Filter, model OT32 for \$94.00. The OT32 model is a dual filter system that fits underneath your kitchen sink and comes with its own faucet. The first filter cartridge, RS2, a string wound cartridge, reduces Rust and Sediment. The second filter cartridge, CB3, a carbon block filter also reduces rust and sediment and removes asbestos 99.19%. It removes chlorine 97.50%, lead 96%, mercury 84.40%, cryptosporidium and giardia cysts 99.99%, and volatile organic chemicals (voc's) 99.10%.

The installation of my Omni Filter I did myself. It went fairly well in spite of the few choice words uttered aloud while lying on my back under the sink. Since the installation of my new water filter, I'm happy to report the water does seem clearer and has a cleaner, healthier taste. It did take a few days, however, for all the tiny air bubbles to disappear. The filter cartridges last an average of 4 months and are relatively inexpensive to replace. ~~~

Fast Track Bill

Written by Scottie Franklin

The Governor recently signed off on what is being called the FAST TRACK bill. The bill was approved by the legislature on June 17. Officially the bills are S-1368 and A-3008. This move was made swiftly and covertly. There was virtually no time allowed for public review or comment. These bills streamline the building-permit process by granting developers automatic approval of zoning or environmental applications that are undecided by the NJ DEP after only 45 days. The bills also call for the appointment of a special ombudsman who could veto or override environmental policy and agency decisions.

In the Shark River this bill could mean that if the DEP proposes stricter protection measures for our water the ombudsman could veto the DEP and deny the protection. The bills severely limit state oversight of proposals dealing with petroleum, natural gas, water and sewer pipes. They weaken protections in coastal areas, freshwater wetlands, and endangered species habitat. They would speed development on more than a third of the state's vacant land and all of the land in the Shark River Watershed. Public comment would not be required.

The worst part is that developers are now allowed to hire their own consultant to oversee and approve the passage of their own permits with no DEP oversight! This is like the fox watching the hen house. The passage of the Fast Track bill rolled back 30 years of environmental progress. Call the Governor's office at 609-292-6000 and tell him you don't like what he did. Be sure to give your name and the town in which you reside. ~~~

We need your help!

The Shark River Cleanup Coalition is always in need of volunteers. Call us at **732-775-7916** and we'll let you know what you can do to help us keep the Shark River Estuary clean.