



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

JUNE 2016



Strategic Conservation - At Risk Species **By Steve Mars**

NJFO Biologist Steve Mars met with consultants whose clients include most utility companies located in New Jersey to discuss right of way (ROW) practices that could benefit pollinator species. At least one success story was highlighted, whereby representatives from Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) undertook an initiative to restore pollinator habitat on an existing transmission ROW, in conjunction with the introduction of five honey bee hives. As there are more than 400 miles of utility ROWs in NJ, there is great potential to improve habitat and health for honey bees and other pollinator species. Congressional District 2.



Photo Credit: Laura Perlick, USFWS



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Connecting People to Nature - Mr. B's Classroom Naturefest By Eric Schradung

The NJFO participated in a Naturefest with a Galloway Township elementary and middle school on June 2. The location of the Naturefest are two retention basins between the schools that the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program restored with plantings, a dock and nest boxes several years ago. Naturefest was attended by hundreds of students, local press, conservation organizations, and even a mallard hen and her 11 ducklings. Congressional District 2. Photo Credit: Eric Schradung, USFWS





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Connecting People to Nature - Bayside State Prison **By Katie Conrad**

The NJFO has a partnership with Bayside State prison to grow native plants for restoration projects. Their greenhouses are now full of plants that will be used across New Jersey this year. These 1,500 trees and shrubs were only planted two weeks ago from bare root stock and are thriving. The prisoners learn about plant care and provide the nursery for these plants. Congressional District 2.



Photo Credit: Katie Conrad, USFWS



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Strategic Conservation - At-Risk Species **By Beth Ciuizio Freiday**

This week, NJFO Partners staff completed the second bird survey of a year-long effort to document bird use of the Joint Base-McGuire, Dix Lakehurst. In particular, the Joint Base is interested in an inventory of birds using ecotone habitat. This project compliments other work being done at the Joint Base by Partners staff to improve habitat by controlling invasive plants and converting fields to stands of native grasses. Congressional District 4.



Photo Credit: Katie Conrad, USFWS



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8th Annual Conference of the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative By Melissa Foster

Steve Mars, Cathy Marion, and Melissa Foster of the New Jersey Field Office participated in the 8th Annual Conference of the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, held at Rutgers University, New Jersey. The Conference showcases efforts of partners including academic researchers, state, local and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, philanthropic organizations, and other organizations in promoting stewardship of the Raritan Basin. Focal areas of the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative include water quality; wetlands, forestry and ecosystems; watershed systems and management; public access and citizen science; and resilience, stormwater management, and flooding. Congressional Districts: 4, 6, 7, 12



Photo Credit: Melissa Foster, USFWS



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6th International Fish Passage Conference **By Beth Ciuizio Freiday**

NJFO biologists Beth Freiday, Katie Conrad and Cathy Marion attended the 6th International Fish Passage Conference, held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst June 19-22, 2016. The conference was well attended by 400 biologists and scientists from around the world, including 75 USFWS employees. The conference was jam packed with talks, panels, posters, vendors and plenty of networking opportunities. One of the keynote speakers was Region 5's very own Wendi Weber! Staff learned about techniques for enhancing aquatic connectivity used all over the globe. The conference offered an app called Whova that made exchanging contact information with new colleagues as easy as a click of the button.



Photo Credit: Beth Ciuizio Freiday, USFWS



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NJFO WOMEN ROCK! Beth Freiday, Cathy Marion, Katie Conrad - Selfie, USFWS



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Happy July 4th

