



# Liberty Township Environmental Commission

## 2016 Annual Report

### **Roster**

Chairman Phil Wooldridge, Vice Chair Shannon Schaaf, Dan Kurela, Tom Webster, Eckhardt Debbert, first alternate Diane Gonski, second alternate Helen Danitz, Secretary Eileen Greason

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 7 PM at the Municipal Building. Membership in the New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions was maintained.

### **Aquatic Weed Control**

The agreement with Solitude Lake Management of Port Murray was reviewed and re-negotiated for the municipal beach area at Mountain Lake.

### **Cabin Fever Workshop**

Sat. March 5 a native seed workshop was held at the Municipal Building. Under the tutelage of Lorna and Phil Wooldridge, participants planted native species seeds in packs and created "seed bombs" to take home and grow.

### **Arbor Day**

Sat. April 23 a Free Tree Giveaway was held at the new pavilion site at Mountain Lake. Trees were received from the state nursery through a Hurricane Sandy grant. 185 trees were distributed that day, and the remaining 65 trees were bundled and left for distribution at the Municipal Building.

### **Community Day**

Sat. June 11 the Commission's display next to the Mountain Lake Bog Riparian Planting site included an information table where many brochures were distributed. A water balloon launcher was set up where participants had an opportunity to launch biodegradable water balloons at targets. "Touchy feely" boxes were set up for visitors to guess what the items might be. This event served as part of the required educational event for the NJ Stormwater regulations.

### **Moth Night**

Wed. July 27 Moth Night was held at Merrill Creek Environmental Education Center in Harmony Twp. Our Commission's high intensity light was set up to attract moth species for observation and recording. Mansfield and Belvidere Environmental Commissions also participated.

### **Plant Swap**

Sunday Sept. 11 the Commission, the Mountain Lake Community Association & Watershed Advisory Group and members of the public traded perennial plants and trees from their yards and gardens. All attendees received potted Sugar Maple and White Oak trees donated by the Morrows of Long Valley through Bartlett Tree Experts.

### **Memorial Tree Planting**

Also on Sept 11 a Sweet Bay Magnolia tree was planted in the Grove area across the lake in memory of long time Commission member Eckhardt Debbert. Fifteen family members and friends attended and shared fond memories. A plaque was installed in dedication.