

*The PTEC is dedicated to protecting  
the natural environment of Plumsted  
and preserving the rural character of  
our community.*

## Plumsted Township Environmental Commission

# ANNUAL STATUS REPORT **2011**



PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## PLUMSTED ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### COMMISSIONERS

William Lewis

**Chairman**

Ralph Bitter III

Ed Weirsky

*Also serves on the Municipal Utilities Authority*

Miguel Garces

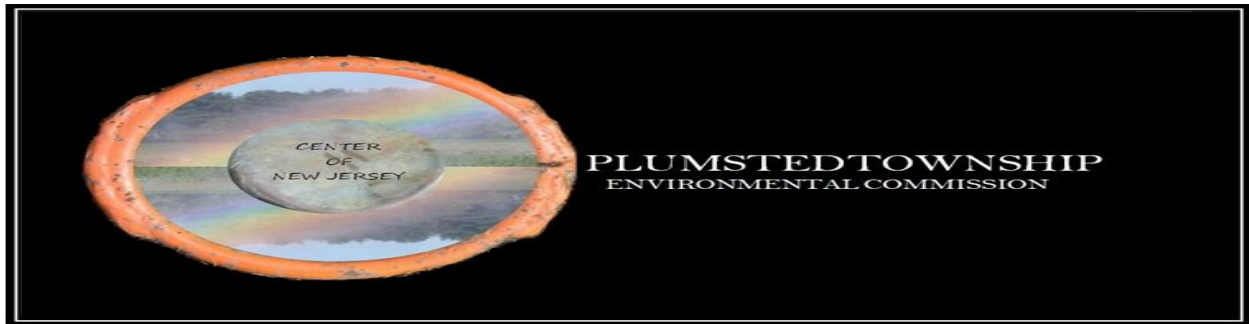
*Also serves on the Planning/Land Use Board*

Mark Reme

*Also serves on the Green Technology Advisory Committee*

Larry Witham

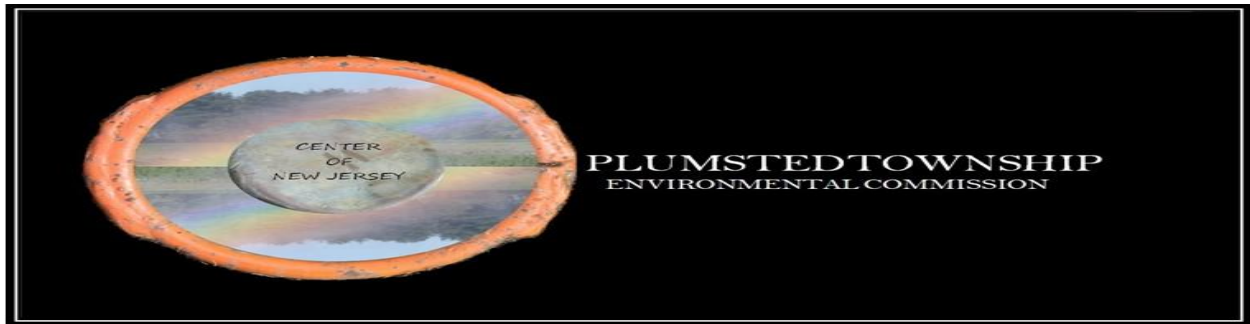
Ashley Potkulski



## COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

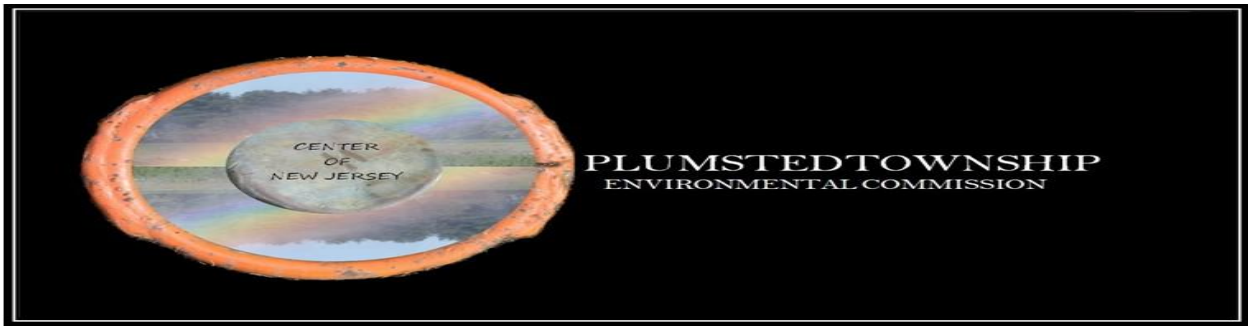
- The Environmental Commission hosted its first Annual “Seasons of Plumsted” photo contest in 2010 and the award winners were recognized at one of the Township Committee meetings in March. Also each winner was given a certificate and their perspective prizes. Photos were framed and hung in the Municipal Courtroom where this year’s 2011-2012 winners will reside as well.
- In March as our local birds were starting to think about the nesting season we managed to put up (5) Bluebird nest boxes at the New Egypt Recreation fields in town. After all the Eastern Bluebird is our official bird of Plumsted Township. The new cedar bluebird nest boxes were purchased from a local bird house craftsman.
- On March 27<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a Rain Barrel Workshop for local youth groups at the New Egypt Middle School in preparation for Earth Day tour at the Ocean County Library. Sponsored by PTEC and with the gracious donation of the recycled barrels by Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst.



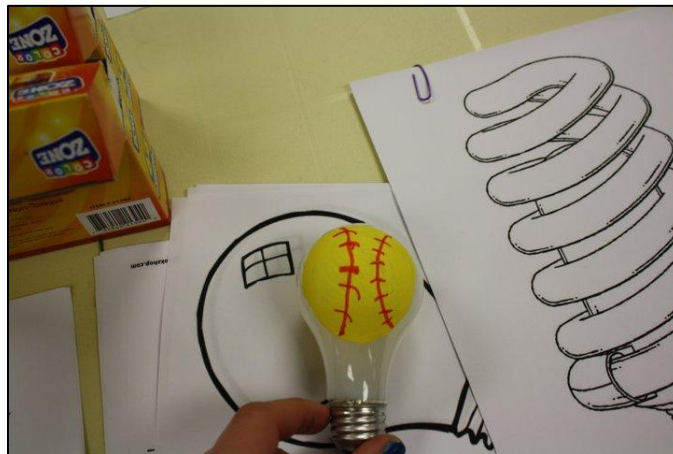


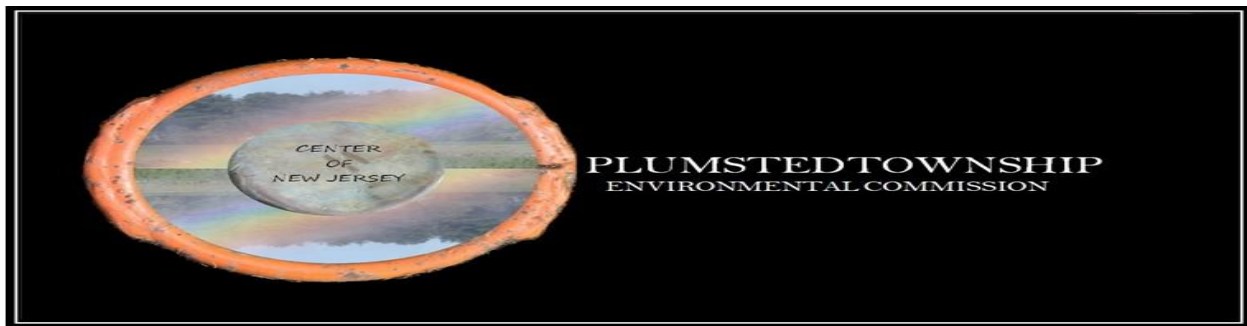
- Our hugely successful Rain Barrel Workshop on March 27<sup>th</sup> supplied us with a beautiful entrance way to the Ocean County library's Earth Day Celebration. At the library the rain barrels were judged by local onlookers and special judging was performed by our Mayor Dancer and Deputy Mayor Leutwyler. This project stretched for over 3 months from March to May, starting with the assembly in March, followed by the business tour in April, and ending in a final tour of the 30 plus barrels at Laurita Winery's Spring Festival (April 30<sup>th</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup>) which had an estimated 5,000 attendees.





- During the Earth Day celebration, 4/16, the Environmental Commission also manned a table and ran a Vintage Light Bulb Painting workshop. Participants were afforded the opportunity to paint their old light bulbs and take home a new energy efficient CFL bulb. In addition we supplied a wooden pallet compost bin setup outside of the library and with the help of the Ocean County Master Composter representative we had educational take away literature for the public.

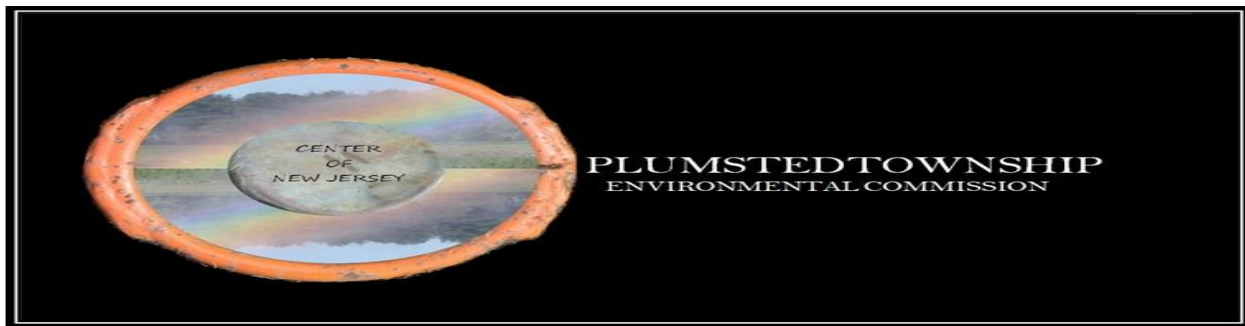




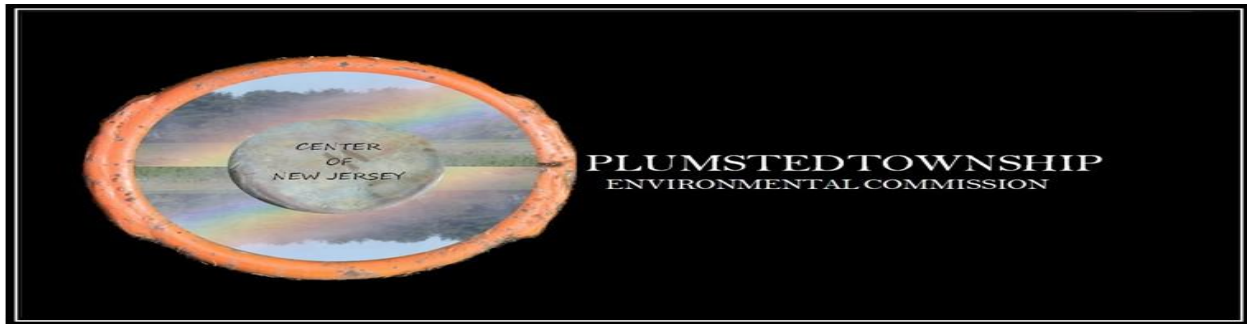
- Organized in conjunction with Main Street New Egypt, Neighborhood Preservation Organization, and the New Jersey Youth Corp a stream cleanup of the Crosswicks Creek. This one day event on April 27th, which has become a steadfast tradition for our commission, tackled debris and litter along the banks of the creek. We were joined by Daniele Larson, the Watershed Ambassador from Cape May Watershed who substituted for Lindsey Fenner our area's Watershed Ambassador.



- In the month of May our PTEC Chairman was busy organizing the annual KF Kayak & Canoe race/tour. The event started in the early morning of 5/14 right before New Egypt Day and ended around lunch time. The race is 9 miles downstream and the canoe tour is conducted simultaneously up to Oakford Lake at a leisurely pace and this year's tour was guided by Ocean County Parks & Recreation Park Rangers.



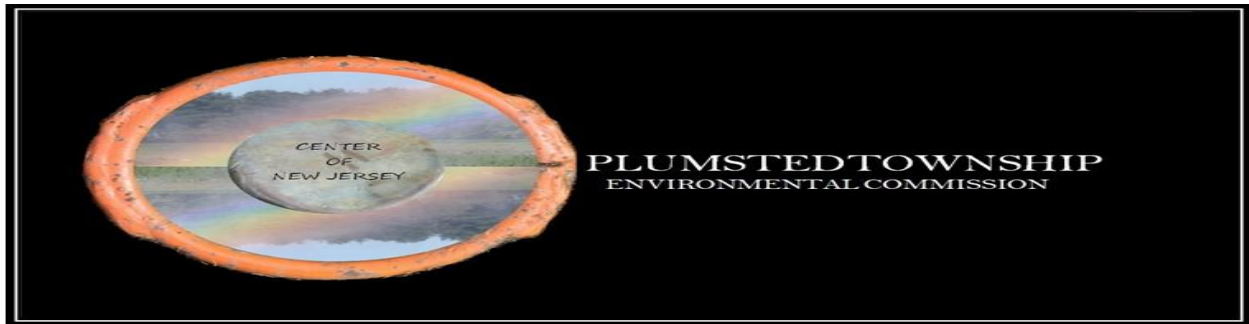
- School Outreach- A high school science teacher was provided with a Lamotte's Water testing kit from a Clean Communities grant to facilitate water sampling along the Crosswicks Creek and to help provide a better understanding of our environment for the youth of this community.
- We've been actively seeking to help coordinate the placement of recycling containers at the local middle and high school sports fields with the aid of our Municipal Utility Alliance and Waste Management.
- Participated in NJ Wild Outdoor Expo on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> - Chairman William Lewis assisted in a guided nature walk featuring native birds of Colliers Mills WMA like our township bird the Eastern Bluebird. The Wild Outdoor Expo was a free event designed to build appreciation for outdoor recreation through a unique blend of conservation information, education and hands-on opportunities to learn about and experience a wide range of outdoor skills and activities.
- Annual photo contest, "Seasons of Plumsted" sponsored by the Environmental Commission started in October and is currently underway. We stayed with 2010's rules and guidelines and subsequent categories-Natural Landscapes and Animals/Wildlife.
- Barnegat Bay Watershed Blitz Oct 19th – The Commission coordinated a separate afternoon clean-up along with Township and school-aged children. We were out at Colliers Mills WMA during the day and evening picking up litter and we even enlisted the help of local resident and llama owner Bev Vienckowski. The llamas packed out bags of garbage in the morning and in the evening we had township employees helping a group of children remove the 40 plus bags of garbage and recyclables collected from the roads of the WMA.



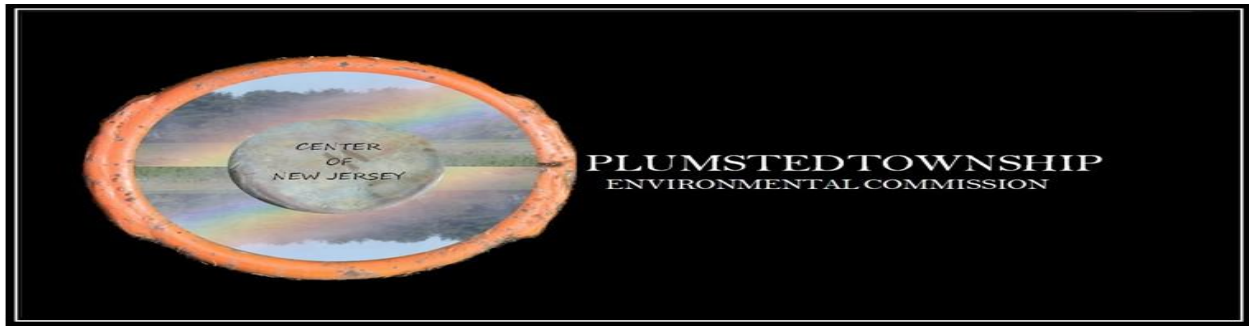
- Participated in the 2011 FALL FEST on 10/30. Commissioners Ashley Potkulski and Larry Witham helped Plumsted residents spread pounds of peanut butter on pine cones and stale donuts/bagels, taking recycling to a whole 'nother level!



- Natural birdfeeder tree ornament workshop held at the Welcome Center was sponsored by the commission on November 27<sup>th</sup>. We helped local volunteers create recycled bird feeders out of old donuts, bagels, and pinecones for the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting ceremony. These natural biodegradable ornaments also provided a welcome treat for our local critters!



- On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the commission brought out over 200 handmade ornaments for the participants of the Tree lighting ceremony to hang before the lights on the tree was lit. Both adults and children were all smiles hanging the recycled donuts and bagels on the tree by Oakford Lake. If you missed it we plan on doing again this year in 2012.
- On December 10th Commission held a “Natural” Holiday Wreath workshop. The Commission provided the following supplies: (1) grapevine wreath, holly twigs, and pine twigs. Grapevine wreaths which can be reused throughout the year were provided by Chairman William Lewis and Joe Lewis. We even had one returning workshop attendee from 2010 who brought their previous year’s wreath back and redecorated it. We were happy to encourage any and all types of RECYCLING!



### **Outlook for 2012**

The Plumsted Township Environmental Commission is looking forward to continuing our mission of promoting the environmental issues that matter to our residents here in Plumsted Township.

Activities either sponsored or cosponsored by the commission in the near future are to include but not be limited to: rain barrel workshop, stream cleanup, bluebird nest box monitoring, natural holiday wreath workshop, Seasons of Plumsted photo

contest, Natural Bird friendly Tree Ornament and Tree trimming event, and commissioners' participation in several township wide festivals and fairs.

The commission encourages the public to attend meetings and learn more about our sponsored events. Also we have a separate email mailing list for those who want to regularly receive information on our sponsored events or related environmental correspondence. To sign up use the below email and in subject line include "email mailing list". If you are interested in serving on the commission or volunteering for the many different activities and or have questions or comments please email us at [plumstedtownshipec@gmail.com](mailto:plumstedtownshipec@gmail.com). Also you can sign up via our Facebook page search for us at Plumsted Township Environmental Commission.