



# The MANVILLE ECO

A Sustainable Manville Quarterly Newsletter



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## Welcome Message from our Co-Chairs

Welcome Message from our Co-Chairs: Welcome to the second issue of Sustainable Manville's newsletter, *The Manville Eco*. Sustainable Manville is the Borough's "Green Team." We are made up of a diverse set of volunteers that include residents, librarians, environmental educators, grade school teachers, environmental planners, artists, government employees, technology specialists, and elected officials (just to name a few). Our efforts focus on helping residents make choices that are good for the environment while also helping to foster Manville's strong community spirit. You can use this newsletter to learn about environmental protection efforts in Manville and understand how you can do your part.

If you would like to get involved or learn more about Sustainable Manville you can connect with us on Facebook (@SustainableManville). You are also welcome to join us at our monthly meetings which take place on the second Thursday of the month at the Manville Library (7 pm).

— Tim & Tara Kenyon

## Manville Awarded \$10,000 Grant

*Sustainable Jersey and PSEG Foundation partnered to award a grant to fund refillable water bottle stations at the Manville Library, Weston and Roosevelt Elementary Schools*

*by Matt Brown, Sustainable Manville Member*

During an award ceremony held May 7, 2019, Manville was awarded one of eight \$10,000 grants through a partnership program between Sustainable Jersey and the PSE&G Foundation. The grant, titled "Health, Hydration, and Sustainability through Refillable Bottles", presented a case for the positive impact that installing the units would have on Manville



Matt Brown with Exec. Director, Sustainable Jersey, Randall Solomon

residents. The project continues the Green Team's initiative to make Manville a pillar of sustainable practices in New Jersey. The units should provide a tremendous impact on residents, especially with the library acting as a town hub

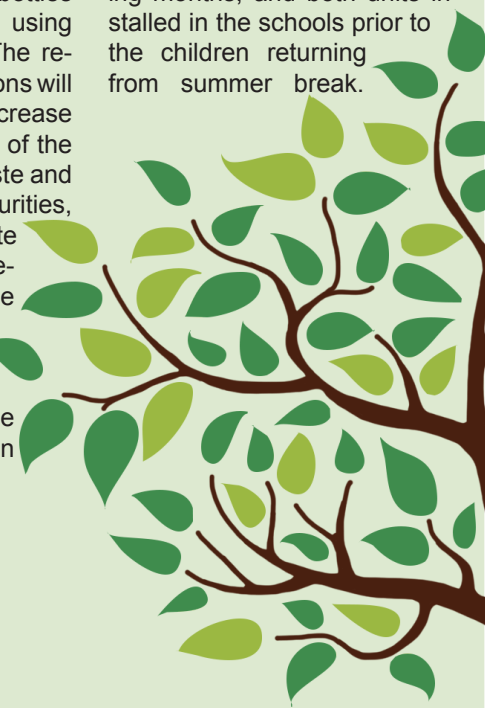
for special events and activities for children, senior citizens, and community groups alike.

Each of the units installed feature an LED screen that counts and informs users of the number of 16.9 ounce plastic water bottles saved by using the unit. The refilling stations will not only increase the quality of the water's taste and lower impurities,

they will also reduce waste accumulated from single-use plastics, provide free access to purified water, and offer an educational outreach opportunity in which the public can be educated on

the detrimental impact of single-use plastics. Attendees of these educational programs will receive a high-quality refillable bottle, also paid for by the grant.

Manville is honored to have received the award, and will begin installation of the units soon, with hopes of having the unit in the library within the coming months, and both units installed in the schools prior to the children returning from summer break.



## News from Manville School District Environmental Clubs

Manville has a very active group of environmental clubs from the elementary grades all the way through the High School. These clubs provide an important outlet for students interested in learning more about protecting the environment.

### Weston Earth Watchers Club

by Mrs. Samatha Minniti

Earth Watchers at Weston School have been exploring unwanted materials to design and create upcycle projects. One project that the class participated in was making homemade bird watching binoculars! Each binocular was different and unique in its own special way. Other projects included upcycle rockets, sea creatures, notebooks, and summer outside decorations just to name a few.

In one of our final meetings, the class was asked what being in Earth Watchers means to them. A first grade student Ian stated, "it is important to be a person who cares about the earth. The earth is the only planet we can live on so we need to take care of it!" Another first grade student named Reese stated, "we need to pick up garbage and recycle every day to care for the earth."

When we meet again, we will be planting and learning how to take care of plants in our environment and at home. Let's keep going green Manville!



Weston Earth Watcher students using the bird watching binoculars



### Roosevelt Environmental Club

by Alicia Mathewson



The Roosevelt School Environmental Club has had a busy few months! Students have been utilizing club meetings to research environmental facts to share during the school's Morning Meeting. On Saturday April 13th, several club members and their families participated in the Manville Community Cleanup day. We spent almost two hours cleaning up the Gerber Field area before having a celebratory lunch. Roosevelt School also had the honor of hosting Manville's Arbor Day Celebration. The entire Roosevelt

School Community celebrated Arbor Day with Mayor Onderko, Council Members, Members of the Board of Education, community members, as well as Mr. Kuhlman and other members of the Manville Shade Tree Commission. We are beyond grateful for this opportunity and look forward to looking after and taking care of these trees as they grow!



# ABIS Environmental Club wrap up

by Lauren Kurzius

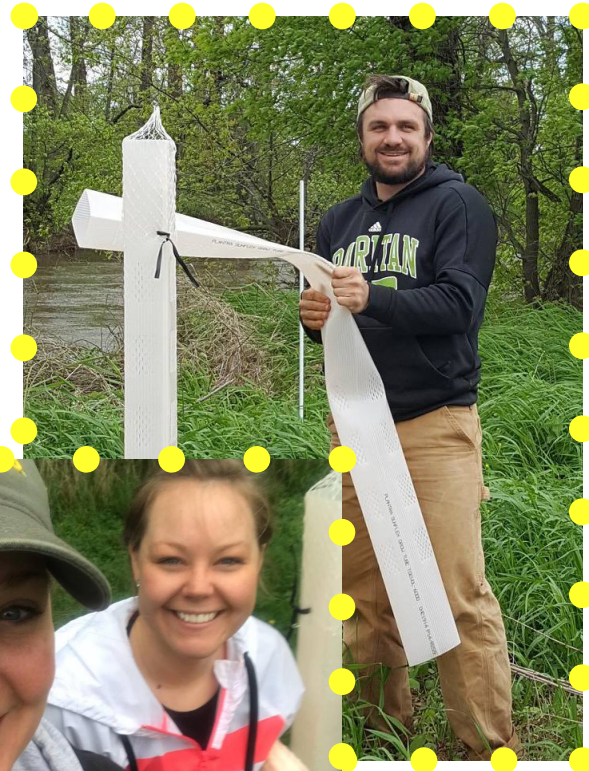


The ABIS Environmental club has been very busy! In April, we released 76 Rainbow Trout into the Raritan River as part of NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Trout in the classroom program. Our trout were so successful this year that we donated an additional 16 fingerlings to Future Foundations Academy in Piscataway after their trout didn't survive a water change. We are currently planning a field trip to Roosevelt school and are planning a lesson for the 3rd grade on the importance of clean water specifically in Manville. Mr. Weber will be meeting with us to discuss plans for the installation of a biodiversity garden at

the Manville Municipal Building in June. We are also STOKED to be attending another trip to The NJ School of Conservation at Montclair State University where we will be spending two days camping, hiking, canoeing, and attending seminars in macro invertebrate studies and ecology. We plan on participating in Cornell University's feeder watch program in the Fall of 2019 which counts the different species of birds that are living in Manville. It's been a great and green year!



## Volunteer Spotlight – Jamie Lemieux, Alicia and Kimberly Mae Mathewson



Above: Jamie Lemieux  
Left: Alicia Mathewson  
& Kimberly Mathewson

As you may have already seen, James led a group of volunteers on this Spring, planting a large number of trees in the Valley! This project is funded through a grant from the Nature Conservancy which focuses on floodplain reforestation.

James is a student at the Raritan Valley Community College Environmental Studies program and has an impressive pedigree as an environmentalist (read more about another one of his projects here [www.raritanval.edu/node/35391](http://www.raritanval.edu/node/35391)).

He combines an expert view on conservation, with a friendly and calming demeanor. Sustainable Manville is proud (and extremely lucky) to have him as one of our many dedicated volunteers!

By the way - these tubes are protecting small tree seedlings - help protect them Manville!

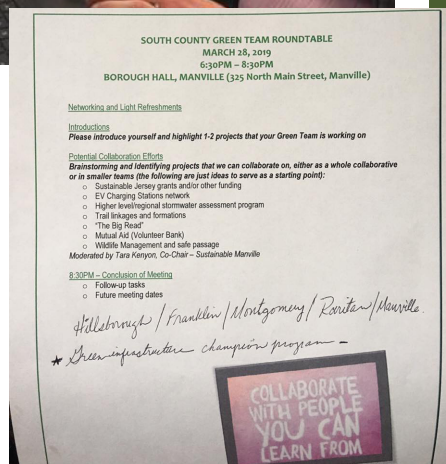
Helping Jamie was another set of volunteers. The Mathewson sisters braved wind and rain to help plant nearly 75 trees with a small group of volunteers from Manville and RVCC. Thank you for your smiles and muscles Alicia and Kimberly Mathewson.

## Sustainable Manville organizes the first South County Green Team Meeting

by Tara Kenyon

On March 28, 2019, Sustainable Manville hosted the first South County Green Teams Meeting at Borough Hall. Representatives from green teams in Manville, Hillsborough, Franklin, Montgomery and Raritan gathered to discuss accomplishments made in their municipalities and to strategize for regional environmental programs and projects. This meeting marked a new and important opportunity for neighboring towns to work together to achieve healthier and more sustainable communities that do not end at political borders.

The group will take these newly formed partnerships and use them to implement larger projects that benefit the region, as well as work with each other as volunteers and experts to work on future projects. This group will also serve as an idea bank to further the tenants established by Sustainable Jersey. The goal of the group is to meet a few times per year and to keep each other apprised of the wonderful things going on in their respective municipalities.



## Manville Community Clean-Up Day 2019

by Violet Hall

Early Saturday morning, April 13th, over 130 residents, employees, firefighters, and EMS personnel volunteered and came together to accomplish a common goal, the beautification of their great town!

Volunteers met at the Manville Library where groups gathered and were transported to about a dozen borough grounds areas to abate litter left behind by others. Everyone worked very hard collecting and separating trash, recyclables, tires, large pieces of lumber and other items that cluttered Manville's parklands and green acres. When all was said and done, the volunteers removed approximately 3,000 pounds of litter from these areas.

Made possible with grant money from New Jersey Clean Communities and sponsored by the Manville Department of Public Works, Manville Recreation, and Sustainable Manville, volunteers were provided with a reflective t-shirt for safety and clean up supplies. After a couple of hours the clean-up teams returned tired, dirty, but full of pride for completing their goal. A light box lunch was enjoyed by all as they were thanked for their efforts with a certificate, personal reusable straw and a volunteer button commemorating the day.

Many thanks go out to one and all that volunteered that day and took time out of their personal life for the greater good of the Borough of Manville. Way to go!

