

# Millstone Township

## Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council

### Voters Determine the Fate of NJ Open Space Next Week

November 6th, NJ voters will determine the future of preserving open space in the State. Public question #3 will ask voters whether or not they would like to continue to fund Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation via a bond measure. This bond act will authorize the State to issue \$200 million in general obligation bonds, which would temporarily continue to fund New Jersey's open space preservation programs. **Importantly, passage of the measure will not create new taxes.**

Millstone Township benefited greatly with monies that were made available with the passage of The Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), established in 1998. The Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council, in conjunction with the Township Committee, acquired GSPT funds which amounts to 50 - 60% of the monies used in local land preservation. In total, Millstone Township has preserved over 5,000 acres of open space and farmlands, with hundreds of additional acres in line for preservation. However, the monies in GSPT are now depleted, and without immediate action, our precious resource of open space and farmlands could be lost forever.

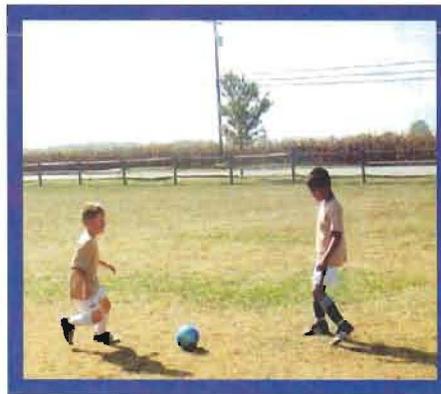
November 2007 Bulletin



### Carolina Wren

*Thryothorus ludovicianus*

We have many birds in Millstone Township. Over the years on our Millstone property, we have listed over 100 species. To pick out a favorite bird would be quite difficult, but one of the species that my husband and I enjoy is the Carolina Wren mainly because they insist on nesting (for several years) in a hanging planter on the porch. They will really nest in most anything, even an old shoe if they so desire. We were able to witness and enjoy the courtship, nest building, caring for their young and yes, we even saw them fledging this year on a bright and early morning. The Carolina Wren will stay all year in this area and if food is hard to find due to heavy snow they will visit the feeding station for small seeds & suet, however they are not commonly found there. They will sing practically all day long, the whole year round.



New Jersey is one of the highest populated states in the nation. At the current rate of growth, our state is projected to reach full development within the next 30 years. Open space benefits our community in many ways. It enhances the beauty and quality of life of our residents. It helps to protect our clean drinking water supplies, reduces air pollution, and reduces the impact of floods. It provides parks for our children and keeps our community attractive and safe. Parks provide places for horseback riding, hiking, jogging and other physical activity.

**Make your voice heard  
on November 6th.**

For more information,  
[www.NJKeepItGreen.org](http://www.NJKeepItGreen.org).

**by El Adams, resident  
Millstone Township  
Historical Preservation  
Commission**



Anyone interested in serving on the Agriculture Advisory Council, please contact Pam D'Andrea @ 732-446-4249 x1



## Millstone Day - September 23rd 2007

Howdy partners! Millstone Township residents couldn't get enough of the mechanical bull ride run by the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council. We got a little bit of a late start as the bull didn't want to come out of its pen: however, council member Charlie DeNardo was determined to get that bull working! Thank you Charlie!

While the big kids were riding the bull, the small kids had lots of fun in the blow up money booth. A huge thank you to the girl scouts who volunteered their time to help run the money booth! We also want to thank Ken Gann and the Millstone Township Department of Public Works in their assistance for providing the transportation of the bull.

We are extremely grateful to the merchants and local businesses that donated the prizes. With their support, we earned \$535 to help preserve farmland and open space in our open space in our beautiful community.



Please remember to support the organizations that supported us: Foodtown, Wendys, Sesame Place, Panera Bread, McDonalds, Burger King, Dairy Queen, Lobster Shanty, Dicks Sporting Goods, Please Touch Museum, Lakewood Blue Claws, Garden State Discovery Museum, Trenton Thunder, Highgrade Beverages and Disney Resorts. The money booth was provided by Dancing DJ's of Howell and the use of the mechanical bull was donated by Frank Drift of Daube Farms in Montgomery Township.

**See you all next year!**

## Wagner Farm Preservation

On July 27th 2007, the Township preserved the Wagner Farm on Stillhouse Road. The 25.64 acre property has operated as a nursery for many years and Mr. Wagner plans to continue the tradition. There is a 15' wide trail along the southern boundary line of the property.

This is the third preserved farm to close this year and Millstone Township has seven more preserved properties set to close within the next year. Way to go Millstone!



## Spotlight on a Local Farmer - Jonathan Pinhas

At the age of 25, Jonathan Pinhas is one of the youngest farmers in town, and the numerous challenges he faces exemplifies the precarious future of farming in the State.

Jonathan is a fourth generation farmer. While helping out his grandparents, Robert and Margaret Patterson, at their farm where they both grow vegetables and ornamentals, Jon realized his passion for farming at an early age. He attended local schools and honed his farming skills as a member of Future Farmers of America. During his time with the club, he placed second in the State on vegetable identification and helped the team take first place in the soil competition.

He purchased his first used tractor at the age of 16 and began farming his own fields shortly thereafter. Over the past 9 years he's been adding to his "fleet" as he jokingly refers to it, and currently has 10 operating farm vehicles and another 4 to be restored or used for parts. His most recent acquisition was an Oliver Model 70, which he is restoring in honor of his brother Steven, who was killed in an accident last year.



A plumber by profession, he farms because of his deep love of the land. He works full time for his Uncle Bruce Patterson, at Chersterfield Mechanical Service. Each year, he takes off approximately a month and a half during both the Spring and Fall in order to plant and harvest. He's currently leasing over 200 acres in Millstone Township and nearby Roosevelt, growing hay and rye straw. He cites that his big challenge is his need to farm large plots of land, and the decreasing availability of those lots due to development. Equally challenging is the cost to purchase land, even preserved farmland. Although he is putting away all the money he can toward purchasing his own farm, he is skeptical that he'll be able to afford anything. Another challenge to those who continue to farm within the State is the scarcity of the stores and suppliers from which to purchase farm equipment and parts. Last harvest season when a part on his baler broke, Jon and his mother, Shirley, had to drive out to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to the nearest part supplier at five o'clock in the morning. They picked up the part, turned around and drove home. Jon spent the rest of the morning fixing the tractor and he and his Mother were out in the fields baling that afternoon.

Such long days aren't unfamiliar to Jon. Farming requires not only working equipment, but also the cooperation of the weather. In order to bring the crops in before rain or moisture sets in, working 18 hour days is the norm. Timing of the harvest is so critical that Jon's mother assists him in harvesting, driving the baler. He stated that without his mother's help, he'd have nothing.



Other requirements for his time are filing paperwork with the State, including information on what he's growing, how much water he's using as well as what type of chemicals he's using. Additionally, farmers are required to take classes and be licensed in order to spray and apply chemicals. He must also pay to insure each piece of his farm equipment.

And while the expense and time challenges are daunting he keeps at it because his true love is farming and the freedom it allows. As Jon said before he jumped up into his tractor, **"The best part about this is that I'm able to work doing what I want, when I want. I love just driving a tractor, enjoying the fresh air, with no one to bother me."**

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Monday, October 29, 2007

Farmland Assessment-WHO QUALIFIES:

Bob Bruch

Economic Development Representative for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture

at 7:30 P.M.

MUNICIPAL MEETING ROOM

215 Millstone Road

Millstone, NJ 08535

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Right to Farm Seminar-What it is & How To Qualify for Protection:

David Kimmel

Agriculture Resource Specialist with SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee)

at 7:30 P.M.

MUNICIPAL MEETING ROOM

215 Millstone Road

Millstone, NJ 08535

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Farm Conservation Plan

Nicole Ciccaglione

District Conservationist with the U.S.D.A. NRCS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

at 7:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

463 Stage Coach Road

Millstone, NJ 08510

Two Applies for \$200K Grant

Millstone Township is committed to preserving open space, farms and natural features and to providing recreational areas for its residents. In September 2007, the Township applied for a \$200,000 grant from the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program to help fund Phase II improvements to Abate Park, which is located on Charleston Springs Road and Young Terrace. The proposed park improvements include construction of fitness trail stations; completion of an 8' wide paved walking trail; construction of a multi-purpose field, chain link fencing for existing basketball/handball courts; goal posts and nets for existing soccer fields; additional berms and landscaping along the perimeter of the park; a well; an irrigation system; a gazebo; benches and trash cans. The park has been designed to meet the recreation needs of all ages and provides both active and passive recreation. The Township expects that the project will be completed by September of 2008.

Millstone Township Committee

Mayor Nancy Grbelja

Deputy Mayor Robert Kinsey

Committeemen:

Elias Abilheira

Ray Dulfanian

Steven Sico

Millstone Township Open Space & Farmland Preservation

Pat Butch, Chair

Diane Morelli

Tony Alves

Manny Blanco

Charlie Denardo

Elias Abilheira

Cory G. Wingerter, Vice Chair

Rich Mullarkey

Tony Romano

Kristin Schloss

Merrill Siedman

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Anthony Romano, Chair

Shirley Pinhas

Pat Butch

Chet Halka, Vice Chair

Gary Wilson

For more information on the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council or the Agricultural Advisory Council

Contact us at: 732.446.4249 x103

We're on the Web www.millstone.nj.us