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### **Many Magnificent Milkweeds!**

Summer is in full swing, flowers are blooming, meadows are lush, and you will see the return of the magnificent orange monarch butterfly! The host plant of these beautiful insects is milkweed. There are many varieties but you can see a picture of common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) to the left.

Monarchs use this plant to lay their eggs and as shelter during the summer. Once the eggs hatch, milkweed provides all the nutrients caterpillars need to get ready for their metamorphosis into butterflies.

Did you know there are many different species of milkweed that can benefit monarchs? See below two great additions to your pollinator garden!



## Swamp Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata*

*\*Photo Credit iNaturalist*

## Butterfly Weed

*Asclepias tuberosa*

# Congratulations New River-Friendly Organizations!



Congratulations to **Bordentown Middle School** for gaining certification as a River-Friendly School at the *Stream Level!* We

commend the school's creativity and ability to engage students in their local environment. Bordentown teachers taught students about the historical decline of eagles due to DDT. Students connected how the current success story of the bald eagle populations in NJ is directly related to clean water. As an added treat, students got to watch a local brooding pair on the Duke Farms eagle cam.



Congratulations to the **United States Golf Association (USGA) Headquarters** in Liberty Corner, NJ for gaining certification as a

River-Friendly Business. USGA worked to reduce stormwater runoff using a cistern and an upcoming redesign of the parking lot which will incorporate bioswales to promote groundwater infiltration. The campus features a pollinator garden, purple martin houses and blue bird boxes to support local wildlife. USGA operations and maintenance employees only use chemical controls as a last resort for pest management and have implemented soil tests to ensure areas of managed turf are not over-fertilized.

## Two New Advanced Certifications

*Schools can gain advanced stewardship recognition by doing lessons or stewardship above and beyond the required 3 lessons and 1 outreach event.*



Congratulations to the River-Friendly school **Bear Tavern Elementary School** on achieving advanced stewardship at the *Watershed Level*.



Congratulations to **Hopewell Elementary School** on achieving advanced stewardship at the *Stream Level*.

Hopewell Elementary created an infinity garden and peace path

Bear Tavern completed many additional lessons such as raising trout in the classroom or exemplified environmental stewardship by converting thousands of square feet of turf grass into meadow habitat which will better serve native wildlife.

where students are encouraged to connect with nature and observe wildlife. Native plants were used in the garden to support pollinators.

## Two Affiliates with New River-Friendly Schools

River-Friendly Affiliates administer the River-Friendly program in their geographic area and adhere to the program standards maintained by Raritan Headwaters Association, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and The Watershed Institute.



### **Rahway River Watershed Association (RRWA)**

We are proud to announce that affiliate RRWA has certified their first group of schools!

Congratulations to Rahway High School, Franklin Elementary, Madison Elementary, and South Orange Middle School!

The schools connected students to their local environment by testing water samples from the Rahway River and hosting a stream cleanup.



### **South Jersey Land & Water Trust (SJL&WT)**

We are proud to announce that SJL&WT has certified their first school!

Congratulations to Arthur P. Schalick High School for gaining River-Friendly Certification at the River-Level!

In partnership with the American Littoral Society, students learned the importance of stream buffers and their effect on water quality. Twenty-five students helped plant a buffer of 700 native trees and shrubs along a tributary of the local Muddy Run.

## Upcoming River-Friendly Events!



## **River-Friendly Resident Challenge!**

February - October 2022

Become a River-Friendly Resident and be entered into a raffle! Prizes include:

**1st Place Prize- A Stormwater Assessment**

**OR**

**Voucher for Academy 2023**

**2nd Place Prize - Four Tickets to Select Watershed Programs**

**2 Runner-Up Prizes- \$25 Nature Shop Gift Certificate**

For more information visit:

***<https://thewatershed.org/2022-river-friendly-resident-challenge/>***

Summer 2022

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Learn more at: ***[www.njriverfriendly.org](http://www.njriverfriendly.org)***

Or contact us at: ***[njriverfriendly@gmail.com](mailto:njriverfriendly@gmail.com)***

