

New Jersey Committee  
for the  
EAST COAST GREENWAY  
**Newsletter**  
Summer 2006



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Co-Chairs/Bio of Mike Kruimer



Mike Kruimer (on the left) is pictured here with Dick Ginman hanging signs on the D & R Canal. Mike is one of the co-chairs of the New Jersey Committee for the East Coast Greenway. He has been the chair since January. Dolores Newman has recently agreed to be the other co-chair. Mike will be handling more of the meeting and greeting and sign hanging tasks, while Dolores will be primarily responsible for overseeing the office. They are both available to speak to

organizations that would like to learn more about the East Coast Greenway.

While you have already heard that Mike Kruimer is the “ambassador” for the East Coast Greenway, attending many meetings and out there on the trail hanging signs, here is a little more in-depth look at his involvement with the Greenway and bicycling.

Though Mike has been riding for many years he really became involved in bicycling and bicycle/pedestrian advocacy after his wife, Anne, was hit in 1992 while riding a bicycle and was left paralyzed from the waist down. His first bicycling event was in 1989 in Princeton at which time he joined the Central Jersey Bicycling Club (CJBC). In 1991 he chaired their Farmlands ride and went on to be club president from 1995-2005. In 1997 he started going to

Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC) meetings and Jim Girvan got him involved in the East Coast Greenway. Mike and Anne rode their tandem bicycle from Maine to Florida in 2004 for the Inaugural Ride. Mike is a member of the Trails Council of the East Coast Greenway Alliance. He has been very involved in representing the Greenway at meetings, shows and fairs around New Jersey.

## Welcome, Welcome, Welcome

**Welcome**...to all our new members! Mark Adams, Jeff Axelbank, Victor Belanger, Barbara Berko & Joel Dietz, Keith Bessette, Rachel Block, Laura Bolton, Gerald Boyer, Robert Carr, Abraham Chasnoff, Justin Ciallelia, Jane Craven, Patricia Crosby, Edward Decker, John Dalena, Jeffrey D'Auria, Christine Davis, Christopher Davis, Linda Dewolfe, Daniela DiMaggio, Erik and Catherine Drukovskis, Phillip Eisenberg, William and Rebecca Feldman, Philip and Carol Fraley, Nolah Fulk, Renee Gelblat, Leo Germinario, William Goodman, John Graybill, Stephen Greenberg, Catherine Greve, Jean Grzybowski, Louis and Patricia Guida, Jim Halston, Charles Hart, John Hatcher, Frank Hershkowitz & Lorraine Staples, Elizabeth Holland, William Houpt, Peter Huebner, Charles Hunt, Janet Hynes, Kevin James, Mark Jendrzewski, Ed Johnson, Fred Kies, Terry Kulmane, Martin Lazar, Ray Lynnworth, William Marcy, James McArdle, Elaine Miller, Richard Mitnick, Estelle Needleman, William Nierstedt, Janet Petruska, Lore Prag, Robert Puhan, Bob Roberts, David and Elizabeth Rosvold, Robert Sabo, Mark Schlawin & Ilene Dube, Michael Shakarjan, Vincent Sheridan, Bernard Silbernagel, Zelig and Pamela Steinberg, Mel Stiles, Olaf Stiner, Jack Swordski, Alan Teyssier, Dave Vasa, Ruth Ward, Peter Wester, and David Wismer, Jr.

## June 3<sup>rd</sup> Bike/Walk

It was hot and sunny for days before the bike/walk, but that Saturday morning it was pouring rain. We had a picnic grove reserved in Rahway River Park and a tent was erected there. We had a large jug of cold water, snacks, direction sheets, flyers up in store windows and distributed to bike shops and libraries, coupons for ice cream from Applegate Farm in Cranford, a discount on pizza, police support with two Union County police cars, a house donated in Nomehegan Park for us to use the bathroom facilities, East Coast Greenway stickers to identify riders, and the insurance in place to cover the event. We had calls asking for directions to Rahway River Park for weeks prior to the event.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we didn't have sunshine or a vast crowd, but we did have 15 adventurous riders who had a fabulous time enjoying themselves and the scenery between Rahway River Park and Nomehegan Park. The youngest of those riders was Mike Kruimer's two year old granddaughter, Mackenzie, who got to ride and sleep in a trailer attached to Mike's bicycle. The house in Nomehegan was a place for some of those riders to wait out a heavy downpour before they did the return ride. All the bicyclists came back soaked, but safe and happy. It was a great way for them to celebrate National Trails Day and for some of them to see the route of the East Coast Greenway in Union County for the first time.

We are really glad they came out to ride, and hope more people will join us on our next venture. We'll keep you posted on what and where that will be.

Leslie who has a web site designing company, BC Studio, beautifully designed our flyers for this event. Please check out her company at <http://www.bcstudioinc.com> Thanks to Leslie and to everyone else who donated time, energy, space, and food for our first bicycling event! We couldn't have done it without you.

## **Embankment Acquisition an ECGA Priority**

When the Embankment Preservation Coalition formed in 1998 to preserve the monumental stone railway structure that runs through a half mile of Downtown Jersey City, a few seasoned politicians told us it would take five years to secure this historic site and reuse it as public open space.

In June the publication of the ECGA *Close the Gaps: Blueprint for Action* made securing the Harsimus Stem Embankment right of way a top priority for 2006. Jennifer Meyer, president of the Embankment Preservation Coalition, said, "We are thrilled at the prominence the Embankment project has in the New Jersey Committee's work program, and grateful for the state Department of Transportation's backing of this agenda. The ECGA saw our vision for the Embankment site immediately: a historic destination in its own right, and a greenway soaring above Jersey City streets and bringing walkers and bicyclists through our National Historic Districts to the magnificent Hudson River waterfront."

Eight years and thousands of work hours later, with millions raised for Embankment acquisition, we now await a decision from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) as to whether Conrail illegally sold the property to a developer without first requesting abandonment permission from the federal board. A decision favorable to our cause will presumably trigger federal historic preservation protections, contaminant oversight, and an opportunity for the City of Jersey City to acquire the property for public use at a reasonable cost.

In May, Preservation NJ recognized the Embankment as one of its "Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites." This list brings attention to sites in danger of destruction but with realistic opportunities for preservation, if concerned parties k together. With its formal historic recognitions (State Register of Historic Places, National Register eligibility, Municipal Landmark), its listing as a NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program Habitat Work Group priority acquisition site and as one of 16 priority acquisition sites in Hudson County's Open Space Plan, the Embankment has received the official recognitions it lacked those eight long years ago. Among preservation supporters are such elected officials as Jersey City Council President Mariano Vega, Ward E Councilman Steve Fulop, and other Council members, Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy, NJ State Assemblyman Louis Manzo, State Senator Bernard F. Kenny, Jr., U.S. Senator Robert Menendez--who secured \$1.6 million in a federal earmark for Embankment acquisition--and Governor Jon Corzine. Jersey City civic organizations like the Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy and Downtown Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, and regional and national organizations, such as the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, NY/NJ Baykeeper, and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, have been good friends. The ECGA *Close the Gaps* campaign now gives the Embankment project another needed boost during this critical time. After a brief pause to enjoy all this attention, we will get back to work!

Maureen Crowley, Coordinator Embankment Preservation Coalition

[Moher1@aol.com](mailto:Moher1@aol.com)

## Look What's Happening in New Jersey

We have been very busy here at the New Jersey Committee for the East Coast Greenway. The East Coast Greenway Alliance gave us the Blueprint for New Jersey in May. The blueprint is a look at the Greenway segment by segment so that one can see what has been done so far.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) held the first ever ECG Summit. Officials, engineers, and planners from all the municipalities and counties that the ECG touches were called together to look at the Blueprint and explain what has happened with each segment, and what still needs to be done to make the ECG happen. It was evident at the summit that New Jersey is in the forefront of making the ECG happen. It was quite exciting for me to meet people I had spoken with on the telephone and to witness the commitment everyone at the summit had to seeing the Greenway to fruition in our state. We are now awaiting the follow up to the summit that will list for us exactly what needs to be done. We hope to start with the easier items on the list. You should expect to see announcements in the coming months about several sections that will be designated, signed and celebrated.

We are also really pleased to announce that the New Jersey Dept. of Transportation has offered to prepare a map with cue sheets for the ECG. When it is ready, we will be sure each of our members gets a copy.

-written by Lenore Silver

## Website Happenings...

Welcome to our new web master, Jim McArdle. Jim is a consultant and often on the road, but is finding time in between his real work to spruce up our website and get us up to date. We are going for a new look with easy access to the information you want. Keep visiting our website [www.greenwaynj.org](http://www.greenwaynj.org) over the next several weeks to see the improvements.

## **Speakers Bureau Alert...**

Any group that is interested in having someone from the East Coast Greenway (ECG) make a presentation please call our office at 732-340-1411. We have speakers available who will come with materials to hand out, and videos to show.

## **Upcoming Events**

July 19 D & R Canal Commission meeting 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Stockton

July 20 East Coast Greenway Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Rahway office

July 22 D & R Canal Walk 3 mile ramble 9 a.m. Call (609) 924-2683 for info

July 27 Middlesex Greenway Coalition 7:30 p.m. Metuchen Library (480 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen) more info at [www.edisongreenways.org](http://www.edisongreenways.org)  
(next meeting: August 24)

August 12 Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity Ride. Starts 7 a.m.  
Thompson Park in Jamesburg

August 12-14 Pennsylvania Greenway Sojourn. More info at  
[www.railtrails.org](http://www.railtrails.org)

August 16 Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Council (NJBPA) 10 a.m.  
Voohees Transportation Bldg., New Brunswick

September 6 Middlesex County Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force  
40 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick

September 8 (6-11 P.M.) & September 9 (12-11 P.M.) Edison Fall Family  
Festival & Fireworks. Amboy Ave. in Edison (East Coast Greenway will  
have a table there. Come have fun! Be sure to stop by and see us.)