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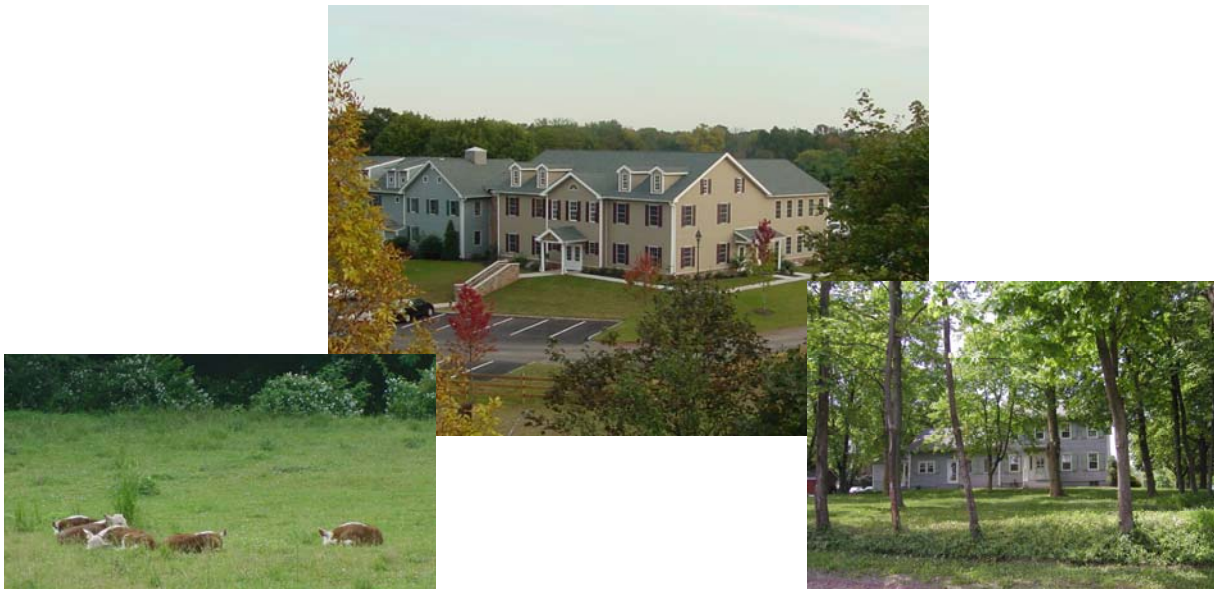


Carriage Farm LLC

Winter / Spring 2007

WELCOME TO CARRIAGE FARM

We are happy to introduce the 1st edition of the new Carriage Farm newsletter. Over the past several years Carriage Farm has been working to become a model for sustainability and green development. No toxic herbicides or pesticides have been applied to the farm fields since 1996 when we received our organic farm certification from the Northeast Organic Farm Association. We partnered with the Stony-Brook Millstone Watershed Associations on various projects to protect and improve the water quality of the Royce Brook, and most recently completed a 12,000 sf office addition that utilizes green technologies and employs environmental sensitivity. Through this newsletter we hope to keep you informed of and involved in our on-going efforts to ensure a healthy environment both indoors and outdoors at Carriage Farm.



CARRIAGE FARM PARTNERS WITH THE STONY BROOK-MILLSTONE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Did you know the stream that runs through the pasture at Carriage Farm is called the Royce Brook and that it is tributary of the Millstone River? Having a waterway on the property means having to be a good steward on the land. Any activity conducted on the property can impact the cleanliness of the water in the Royce Brook.

Through a partnership with the Stony-Brook Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA) Carriage Farm is keeping the Royce Brook clean by implementing the programs detailed in this newsletter.

STREAM RESTORATION

In 1999 Carriage Farm partnered with the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association to rehabilitate the stream bank along the Royce Brook. The pictures below reflect the 1999 stream bank and the restored stream bank in 2003. Stream bank restoration projects control erosion and ultimately contribute to the improvement of water quality. Degraded stream banks lead to erosion of precious soil and destruction of stream habitat. In our restoration we used native plants to hold onto the topsoil of the banks and prevent it from flowing downstream. In addition to providing erosion control, the native plants act as a buffer strip to filter pollutants from water that runs off the land after storms. This vegetation also provides habitat for ducks and butterflies, cover for fish and prevents Canada geese from leaving and entering the streams.



1999 - BEFORE



2003 - AFTER

For more information about the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's programs, go to www.thewatershed.org

RIVER FRIENDLY CERTIFICATION

The SBMWA's River Friendly Business Program encourages local businesses to work toward protecting and improving the environmental health of the community. In order to qualify as a "River Friendly Business" Carriage Farm has to achieve goals developed by the SBMWA in four areas: water quality management, water conservation, wildlife and habitat enhancement and education and public outreach. To date we have:

- Constructed a rain garden for low impact storm water management
- Installed water efficient landscaping that does not require irrigation
- Used native plant species in landscape beds that are disease and insect resistant
- Established bat and bird houses on the property
- Provided on-going environmental education to tenants & community

We hope to receive our River Friendly Business Certification sometime this year!

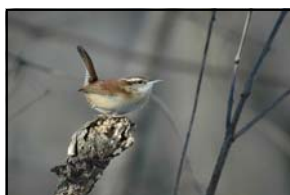
BATS, BIRDS, AND BIODIVERSITY

"Biodiversity or **biological diversity** is the variation of taxonomic life forms within a given ecosystem, biome or for the entire Earth. Biodiversity is often a measure of the health of biological systems to indicate the degree to which the aggregate of historical species are viable versus extinct" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity>). Put simply, protecting and providing habitat for all life forms ensures a healthy environment where everything lives in balance. We are doing our part to make it happen. Creating as little impact on the land and restoring what has been impacted provides the means for people and birds and butterflies and cows and horses to exist together in one environment.

One of our River Friendly Business goals is to encourage biological diversity through the enhancement of habitat. You may have noticed that a few bat houses and bird houses were recently installed in various locations at Carriage Farm.



Black-capped
Chickadee



Carolina
Wren



Eastern
Bluebird



Big Brown
Bat

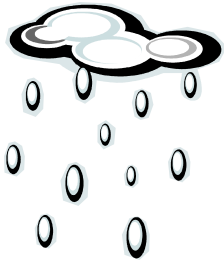
Why bats you might ask? Bats rank among one of our most valuable allies benefiting us from having fewer yard and garden pests. As a primary predator of night-flying insects, bats play a vital role in maintaining the balance of nature. A single bat can consume hundreds of mosquito-sized insects in just one hour. Birds such as chickadees, bluebirds and wrens are also beneficial in keeping the insect populations in check and help to pollinate native plant species.

To ensure the bat and bird houses are providing safe and clean homes for our avian friends, regular monitoring and maintenance is essential. Bat houses should be inspected on a seasonal basis and taking an inventory of bats using the houses will indicate their success. The birdhouses will require routine monitoring and cleaning once a year.

Want to help keep the
biodiversity of the farm intact?
We are looking for volunteers to help us
maintain the bat and birdhouses!
Please contact Sue Clerico (sclerico@clerico.biz)
if you are interested!

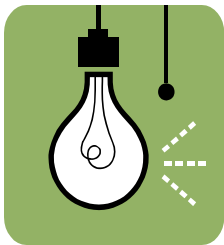
GREEN TIPS

Energy Conservation. Water Conservation. Resource Conservation. Applying these techniques in your home can be as simple as replacing an incandescent light bulb to an energy efficient fluorescent light bulb - or - using a bucket to capture water while your shower warms up, then water your plants! Here are a few tips for you to "Green" your home or office!



Water conservation:

- Install water conserving showerheads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full.
- Install a low-flow toilet that could save 5 gallons of water per flush!



Energy conservation:

- Choose energy efficient appliances that have the EPA's Energy Star rating.
- In the winter, ensure storm windows are in place to avoid cold drafts coming in and warm air leaking out.
- Use public transportation or carpool if possible, to reduce the use of the single-occupancy vehicle.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

- Purchase items that have minimal packaging - or packaging that is recyclable.
- Store food in reusable Tupperware rather than a disposable plastic storage bag.
- Use paper products that are made from paper, not trees. Then recycle the paper after using it!

For more GREEN TIPS, visit www.idealbite.com/tiplibrary/