

# **Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission**

PO Box 286, Woodstown, NJ 08098

[www.w-pjec.org](http://www.w-pjec.org)

**PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release November 7, 2011**

## **Woodstown-Pilesgrove wildlife habitat program Thursday**

The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission will hold a special public presentation this Thursday evening, November 10, at 7:00pm at the Pilesgrove Township municipal building. Conservation biologist Blaine Rothauser will present an overview of an ongoing project undertaken to help the Environmental Commission, local planners and the local residents to better understand the various types of wildlife and habitat found throughout Woodstown and Pilesgrove. Rothauser will also discuss the importance of identifying and protecting these natural resources.

Thanks in large part to a smart growth planning grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Environmental Commission hired Rothauser, a respected statewide expert on biodiversity and wildlife conservation to train the Environmental Commission in recognizing and documenting important habitat, especially habitat for threatened and endangered species.

The Critical Habitat Survey Project is an educational approach to identifying rare plant and animal species that occur in the area as well as the conditions needed for their survival. The project also seeks to find other areas that feature high biological diversity or other special environmental characteristics throughout the greater Woodstown-Pilesgrove community. This project is working to promote greater awareness and protection of rare species and important habitat, and to advance smart growth principles by encouraging the integration of natural resource protection and sound land-use planning.

Rothauser will discuss what the Environmental Commission learned about the types of habitat in the greater Woodstown-Pilesgrove area, the significance of local resources, and how this information can be used for the community to plan and grow in a sustainable manner. He will also discuss what information and tools are available to help the public recognize and report important wildlife observations.

The public is invited to attend this program, which will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission. The Pilesgrove Township municipal building is located at 1180 Route 40 East in Pilesgrove. For more on the habitat project, go to [www.w-pjec.org](http://www.w-pjec.org) and follow the habitat survey project link.

###