

The **Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)** is a group of Mt. Kemble Lake residents who meet periodically to discuss environmental topics of interest to the MKL community. Members include: Joan Baumgarten (President), Sharon Krizko (Secretary), Chris Allyn, Barbara Coe, Jody Mead, Nancy Barrett, and Jane Kendall.

### **Lake, reported by Chris**

In May, the ESC met with Chris Doyle, an aquatic biologist from Allied Biological, the company that inspects and treats the lake for aquatic organisms. We discussed how and when they characterize our lake and how they report and make recommendations on for our lake's management.

Specifically, we reviewed efforts to establish targeted shallow-water plantings following the 2006 dredging (largely unsuccessful due to excessive shading and lack of "exclosure" structures to protect the immature plants) and Alum treatments (two since the dredging targeted at increased clarity of lake waters). Chris indicated that Allied would be enthusiastic about volunteer lake community efforts to provide additional lake characterizations that would augment the Allied measurements.

### **Invasive Plants, reported by Jane**

In May we invited Kathy Woodward who heads the invasive plant removal program of Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to walk around the Lake Community with us and survey our situation. She noted how much we mirror the larger Great Swamp Watershed flora. She further commented that our Lake environment would benefit from an active program to try to deal with the invasive plant problem. She reviewed some opportunities for invasive removal and management and recommended: 1) tackle the most seriously invasive plants first. These would include ones with berries that can be carried to other places (such as Japanese Barberry and Japanese Honeysuckle); 2) Encourage use of native, non-invasive plants in landscaping throughout the community. Unfortunately, the landscaping industry and we, its consumers, promote and use "attractive" plants, often without understanding the invasive consequences of such actions.

### **Solar, reported by Nancy**

Futuristic Thinking: During this past year, the ESC has taken an initial look at the options for solar energy at the MKL community. A representative of Independent Solar came to the lake for a site visit. We are investigating whether it would pay to use solar to provide energy for the Clubhouse and either of the pump houses. Sites that we have discussed for solar installation include the Clubhouse roof, the ball field and the face of the dam. We are also discussing whether it would pay to install solar at one or more houses, either in conjunction with an installation for the community or independently.

### **Composting, reported by Sharon**

Composting is an easy way to reduce the amount of garbage you generate by 25% or more and is an effective fertilizer substitute. All you need is a container with a lid and ten minutes a week. A sample of items that can be composted include: vegetable and fruit food scraps, rice, pasta, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grinds. For additional information, please refer to the composting brochure published under ESC on the MKL website or contact Sharon Krizko at [sk6906@att.com](mailto:sk6906@att.com).