



Lydia Menendez and Chip Darmstadt Receive Middlesex Conservation Commission's Conservationist of the Year Award

by Dave Shepard

At the Middlesex Conservation Commission's annual meeting held on June 3rd at the Shady Rill Picnic Area, the 2010 Middlesex Conservationist of the Year Award was presented to Lydia Menendez and Chip Darmstadt in recognition of their hard work as co-chairs of the Middlesex Town Forest Management Plan Committee. Starting with the initial meeting of the Committee on June 30, 2009 Lydia and Chip put in yeoman effort to keep the process moving along on a tight time frame with the goal of having a draft plan available by Town Meeting. From start to finish creating the plan included the following:

- ❑ **2 field trips on the Town Forest to gather information**
- ❑ **a public forum in October to solicit input from Middlesex residents**
- ❑ **3 public meetings focused on specific topics related to the Town Forest**
- ❑ **9 Committee meetings**

As one of the Committee members there was a time in early February when I recall thinking it was a good goal to have aimed for having a draft plan available for Town Meeting but with all that still remained to be done it just wasn't going to happen. However, with Lydia and Chip's leadership, inspiration and friendly reminders the Committee persevered and the plan was in fact ready by Town Meeting. Best of all, the quality of the end product was not short changed to meet the Town Meeting deadline. The end result of all of this work is a comprehensive plan that will guide management of the Town Forest for years to come. The Conservation Commission would like to thank everyone who worked on the plan or attended meetings to provide their input and we're very pleased to recognize Lydia and Chip for overseeing the completion of this important task for our new Town Forest.

Speaking of the Town Forest, while the management plan is now complete, the work of implementing the plan has only just begun. One of the first orders of business is to form a new Town Forest Stewardship Committee to oversee the management of the Forest. The Conservation Commission will be working with the Selectboard to appoint this committee. It is anticipated that the Stewardship Committee will meet four times a year. There are also many tasks to be completed on the ground in the Town Forest such as:

- ❑ **assess and log the location of existing wood roads by GPS**
- ❑ **continue to inventory the natural features and wildlife habitat on the Forest**
- ❑ **begin scouting potential trail locations**

If you are interested in serving on the Stewardship Committee, are interested in projects on the Town Forest or want more information, contact Conservation Commission Chair Dave Shepard at 229-1744 or shep@pshift.com.

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Sheila R. Glaess, MD, Ob/Gyn



Denise Perry, RN, Ob Nurse



Brad Watson, MD, Anesthesia



Emily Urquhart-Scott, MD, Pediatrician



Christine Bernardine, RN, Lactation Consultant



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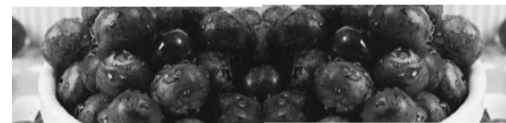
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Sue's Blues



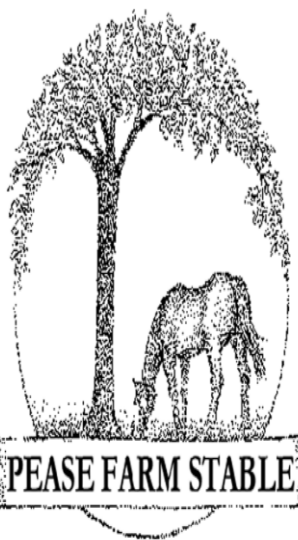
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