

Man

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months. Rutherford said he has fortunately kept clematis and other invasive plants out of his yard, but the woodlands surrounding his home are filled with it.

The porcelain berry has also taken its toll on the native plants and trees, Rutherford said. He said similar to clematis, the porcelain berry vines climb the trees and tightly cover them.

"The vines take moisture out of the tree while they pull and pry it down and cause it to grow in a misshapen fashion," Rutherford said.

He said to successfully eliminate porcelain berry vines, they need to be cut down and completely removed from the tree or plant they are smothering. Once that is complete, the vines need to be sprayed with glyphosate, which is contained in the store bought RoundUp herbicide. If the plants are simply chopped down, they could be knee-

high again within two months, especially during the summer and early fall season.

Rutherford said a friend of his comes to help out around the property on a regular basis with gardening and weed removal. He said during mid-August to mid-September, his gardener sprayed herbicide on some clematis and porcelain berry vines, because that is the ideal time to spray since the plants begin to store the most nutrients just before fall. The only problem is Rutherford was forced to give up a fall planting season because the herbicide would have killed whatever seeds he planted.

Rutherford said the glyphosate has limited effectiveness on the English ivy, which has also become a problem. He said using mechanical equipment to grind it up works best, such as the Bush Hog he owns.

He has teamed up with the New Jersey Audubon and its subdivision, the Cape Island

Habitat Restoration Task Force (CIHRTF), in order to get rid of invasive plants. Rutherford said he sold 12 acres of his property to the state, while maintaining lifetime rights to it. The New Jersey Audubon has been cutting down and spraying the invasive plants in that area. He attended a meeting about the invasive plants on the island, and met Suzanne Treyger, coordinator for the CIHRTF. He said Treyger has been working on the 12-acre portion of land alongside the rest of the Audubon staff, and told him there were also small growths of Kudzu found. This is the plant commonly referred to as "The vine that ate the South." Rutherford said he was especially concerned about the discovery of Kudzu on his property, because it grows at such a fast rate.

He said most of these non-native plants are able to grow with such vigor because South Jersey has had rela-

tively warm winters.

"There aren't any severe freezes here so they are able to survive," he said. "They would be much easier to control if the temperature reached below zero more often."

He said he is disgruntled by all the invasive plants that are smothering and killing the native trees and plants he has tried to maintain. He said he and his father bought the property in 1960 and had very little trouble with these types of plants at that time. He said he hopes the NJ Audubon can save the 12 acres he sold to the state and perhaps come up with a solution for the rest of the property.

"If something isn't done, it will be the end of the trees and native plants, which are homes for many species of birds on this island, especially the hawks and owls," he said. "It's diminishing the habitat for them."

Race

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and Walters 20,669.

Cape May County votes came in early and the rest of the evening was spent watching the returns from Cumberland County with DeWeese and Van Drew neck and neck and Albano slowly pulling away from the two Republicans as Milam lagged behind.

Even Cape May County Democratic Chairman James Pickering said at about 10:30 p.m. he expected Van Drew and Albano to win, but that he wasn't sure about Milam.

Pickering said he was surprised by the low voter turnout and people's response to the oppositions campaign.

"This race is closer than it should be," said Pickering. "Once people stop responding to negative campaigns, candidates will stop using them. I am really disappointed with the low voter turnout."

Pickering said he estimated that only about 40 percent of voters made it to the polls.

"As Democrats we have our up times and we have our down times. Tonight is a down time. Next year we'll play harder."

Around 10:30 p.m. with roughly 77 percent of the districts reporting, Pickering addressed the crowd gathered at Rio Station in Rio Grande to say he was confident Jeff Van Drew would retain his Senate seat and Nelson Albano would hold on to his place in the Assembly. He predicted the race between Matt Milam and the Republican candidates would be close.

Cape May County Republican Chairman Michael Donohue told supporters late Tuesday night at the Bellevue Tavern in Cape May Court House that the Senate race results far exceeded expectations.

"This was a race that we couldn't compete. This was a race that we couldn't raise money. This was a race where Jeff Van Drew was up 59 to 11 (percent) and it was going to stay that way," Donohue said.

Donohue said the Cape May County GOP "made history" despite the unknown outcome.

"There are already pundits posting stories online about how our candidates were going to lose and it will be a blowout. I like the fact that they are going to have to eat those words," he said.

Donohue proclaimed DeWeese "Cape May County's state senator" for his showing in Cape May County.

DeWeese said that he would be a candidate in the 2013 Senate race regardless of the outcome this year.

"We did it, no matter the outcome, we did it," DeWeese said.

Van Drew, a former Dennis Township mayor, served as the only Democrat on the all-Republican Cape May County Freeholder Board from 1994 to 1997. He served in the state

Assembly from 2002 until 2007, when he was elected to the state Senate.

DeWeese served as prosecutor for North Wildwood from 1987 to 1989 and as North Wildwood's solicitor from 1987 to 1993. In 1989 he served briefly as Stone Harbor's prosecutor and that same year began serving as Wildwood's municipal court judge until his retirement in 2010. He has also worked as municipal judge for Cape May, Cape May Point, West Cape May and Lower Township.

This year's senate race focused on the economy and jobs, with DeWeese alleging the Democrat-controlled Legislature's policies were responsible for driving businesses out of New Jersey. He oft repeated during his campaign that the state was ranked 50th (currently 47th) in business-friendly climate.

DeWeese put forward a seven-point plan, which consisted of limiting the amount of legislation state representatives can propose to six bills, a pledge to pay new spending with recurring revenue and thus eliminate additional taxes, a hard cap on government spending, direct contact with constituents and empowering local governments with pursue consolidation through revising civil service regulations.

DeWeese also slammed Van Drew on the senator's push for the county to purchase the Beesley's Point Bridge. Toward the end of the campaign, Republicans made an issue of Marcus Wilson, a campaign worker they dubbed as a "shady Atlantic City Obama organizer who's been investigated for voter fraud" for collecting voter ballot applications from underaged individuals and those who don't live in the district.

Van Drew touted his record of compromise with Republicans, claiming his vote on the Gov. Chris Christie-approved pension and health care reform for state employees helped prevent the collapse of New Jersey's pension system. Democrats accused DeWeese of collecting pension money as municipal judge, solicitor and prosecutor in four towns and earning more as a lawyer for the joint insurance fund.

Assembly

Albano of Vineland, is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union as a shop steward at Village Supermarkets. He first was elected to a seat in the Assembly in 2005.

Milam, another Vineland resident, is president of his trucking company, Foundry Service Corporation. He was elected to the Assembly in 2007.

Fiocchi is a Cumberland County freeholder from Vineland who retired from his family-run irrigation business, Earthtech Solutions.

Walters, of Stone Harbor, served as that borough's mayor since 1997, and is a former member of the Stone Harbor Board of Education.

The Republican Assembly candidates waged a campaign calling for changing representation in Trenton and advocated examining regulations that cut red tape and enable businesses to develop and relocate to New Jersey. Both Fiocchi and Walters advocated the necessity for municipal and county governments to share services to save taxpayers' money.

The Democrats waged a low-key campaign, focusing on bringing jobs to the district and defending their records. They both labeled themselves as "fiscal conservatives" and said they've compromised with Republicans in the past on several key issues.

Shoot

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restrict hunters from using shotguns in the footprint of the former golf course.

According to Beck, the state's concerns were that deer would become a traffic hazard on streets around the WMA, and that they would damage the habitat for other wildlife. He said when the state took over the land, their idea was to develop a habitat that would attract birders and other visitors to the area. However, hunting has become a concern for some neighbors of the WMA.

Beck said the state might consider a special hunting period to cull the herd of deer in the WMA. Councilman Glenn Douglass said the state has done that before in places

like the Cape May County Airport and the County Park in Del Haven.

Thomas Ross, a Shawmont Avenue resident for about 25 years, said he is concerned mainly for the people who are visiting the WMA.

"They have been hunting deer there for over 25 years, but I've heard a lot more shots lately," he said.

He said he recently walked all the trails in the WMA and feels there is not a place where visitors and hunters would not cross paths.

"I don't see how you can have people walking around that area and not have people in harm's way," he said.

Jacqueline Doherty, also a Shawmont Avenue resident, was concerned about the safety of her family. Doherty

said she and her family have heard shots while sitting at the breakfast table, and the sound is unsettling.

Doherty said some of the hunting comes close to her home. She said she once found a hunter gutting a deer in her back yard.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said if there are gunshots being heard, the hunters are not going after deer.

"If they are, they are poaching," he said.

Deer season for muzzle-loaders begins Nov. 29 and runs on specified days. Six-day firearms and permit shotgun deer hunting begin in December.

Lare said hunters know they are supposed to be 450 feet from residences, and he believes hunters, for the most

part, follow the law. He said he wasn't sure making a new law would deter those who break the law.

However, Lare and the remainder of council supported the idea of prohibiting shotgun hunting within the old Ponderlodge footprint. It was also agreed that bow hunting regulations should consider residents and pedestrian visitors to the WMA.

Council only has to send a letter to the Division of Fish and Wildlife indicating it supports their changes.

In an unrelated matter, Beck said the state would soon be removing the fence around the WMA. He said the broken down fence along Baysshore Road has been an eyesore for some time.

GOP Freeholder candidates coast into elected office

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Upper Township Committeewoman Kristine Gabor and amusement park owner Will Morey won seats on the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders Tuesday night.

The two Republican candidates faced no Democrat opposition.

Gabor won with 15,243 votes, while Morey received 15,893 votes. Additionally, Sheriff Gary Schaffer was re-elected with 16,358 votes. Schaffer also faced no opposition.

Gabor, elected to the Upper Township Committee in 2009, is a marketing representative at Coastal Agents Alliance. She will resign

from the township committee following her swearing-in to the county board.

Morey is president and chief executive officer of the Morey Organization, which operates Morey's Piers and Beachfront Waterparks in Wildwood.

Gabor and Morey were nominated by the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization as freeholder candidates this year, after incumbent freeholders Daniel Beyel and Ralph Sheets announced they would not run for re-election.

Both Gabor and Morey advocated more discussion at public meetings, an exploration of economic development in the county and the possibility of sharing services between the county and municipalities.



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