



*Protecting our Waters and our Land for 30 Years*

## Sustainable Jersey for Sustainable Communities

*by Hazel England, Director of Education & Outreach*

**S**ustainable Jersey is a program that rewards New Jersey towns engaging in actions and practices leading to a more sustainable community. Municipalities taking part initially register their intent to try and attain Sustainable Community status, form a Green Team, and begin undertaking and documenting their actions. A municipality may be awarded bronze or silver level Sustainable Community status at the annual NJ League of Municipalities Conference, provided that the specific sustainability actions they have taken have



been verified and tallied using a special state-wide points system. Apart from creating more livable communities, Sustainable

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Town Name	Year Certified	Points Attained	Status
Bernards Township	2011	395	Silver
Bernardsville Boro	2010	175	Bronze
Chatham Township	2009	120	Bronze
LongHill Township	In process		
Madison Boro	2010	230	Bronze
Mendham boro	In process	1	
Mendham Township	In process		
Morristown	2009	150	Bronze
Morris Township	In process		

*\*All Sustainable Jersey certification data is derived from information available at [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com).*

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



by Sally Rubin

**A**s I'm writing this article, it's prime movie season; the Golden Globes and the Oscars, blah, blah, blah. I can't remember the last really good movie I saw. But, I do remember one of the first really good movies I saw. I remember going to see *Gone with the Wind* with my mom. No, clearly, not when it first came out! But, it was a special showing in a movie theatre, and it was so long that there was an intermission. Now, a lot of movies have some really great quotes, but I think *Gone with the Wind* has my favorite. Of course, there's the old stand-by: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." And, I admit, Rhett Butler was pretty amazing. But, that's not the one I mean. Remember what Gerald O'Hara said to Scarlett?

Do you mean to tell me Katie Scarlett O'Hara, that Tara, that land doesn't mean anything to you? Why, land is the only thing in the world worth workin' for, worth fightin' for, worth dyin' for, because it's the only thing that lasts.

How cool is it that this old movie about the Deep South, and slavery and war could be so right. Land is indeed what people have fought over for time immemorial. And, as we know, we'll soon be fighting over water too.

So, here are a couple of things that GSWA is doing about both our land and our water.

We have received a three-year grant from the Department of Environmental Protection for \$300,000 to make some stormwater



*The first stormwater remediation project undertaken at Seaton Hackney Stables under our grant from NJDEP was the installation of a silt fence designed to inhibit the flow of pollution into Loantaka Brook. The fence was installed on February 2, 2012, by a team made up of GSWA volunteers and our grant partners. Work crew (l to r) Steve Gruber, Long Hill Twp. volunteer; Jeff Czapor, Princeton Hydro; Joe Balwierczak, Madison Borough volunteer; Tyler Overton, Princeton Hydro; Geoff Knapp, Morris County Park Commission; Wes Boyce, Bernardsville volunteer.*

improvements at Seaton Hackney Stables at Loantaka Brook Reservation. The overall goal of the project is to reduce pollution in Loantaka Brook by reducing the amount of runoff from the stables and the surrounding parking areas, and repairing the local stream corridor. We are working with several partners on this project, including the Morris County Park Commission, Rutgers University, and Princeton Hydro—our environmental consultant. We hope that one of the outcomes will be that the Seaton Hackney Stables can serve as a model for other equestrian facilities, both public and private, for better environmental best management practices.

Also, as I write this article, I am preparing a Green Acres grant application to assist with the preservation of approximately 70 acres of open space in Harding. This 70-acre parcel is phase two of a complete preservation project totaling approximately 115 acres. Phase one consisted of approximately 45 acres of open space. This earlier phase has already been funded, although it is not yet closed.

The Primrose Farm Estate—where both parcels are located—is one of the last large undeveloped tracts of land in Harding. It consists of wetlands, steep slopes, and endangered species habitat. There are open fields and mature woodlands. The expanse is bounded on one side by the Upper Passaic River, and on another side by Primrose Brook—the only stream within the Great Swamp watershed with NJDEP’s C-1 classification. Its close proximity to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge makes it an important addition to the growing Primrose Brook Greenway. The property also offers wonderful recreational opportunities for bird watching, hiking, cross country skiing,

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## ACROSS THE WATERSHED

is a publication of the **Great Swamp Watershed Association**.

GSWA is a member-supported non-profit organization that has been protecting our waters and our land for 30 years.

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Special thanks to all those photographers who contributed to “The Great Swamp Watershed Association,” a slide presentation written by Dick Lynch in 1986.

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## 30th Anniversary Gala Truly A Watershed Event

**A** *Watershed Event*—GSWA’s aptly named 30th anniversary gala celebration—brought together more than 300 people at Morristown’s Westin Governor Morris this past October to celebrate the organization’s tremendous environmental legacy in northern New Jersey.

Guests from all walks of life gathered alongside GSWA President Ben Wolkowitz, Executive Director Sally Rubin, and Gala Co-chairs David and Susan Budd to honor Abigail Fair and Julia Somers, two local environmental heroes whose tireless efforts have helped preserve the integrity of water and land within the 55-square-mile Great Swamp watershed over the past three decades.

Following the event, Julia wrote us to say, “It was wonderful to see so many people come out for the Watershed Association, and for Abbie and me. It is very humbling to be

recognized for something I never did alone. I know I could never have accomplished anything without broad support from folks who feel just as strongly as I do about the importance of protecting the watershed.”

Thank you, Julia, for your kind words, and thanks to both you and Abbie for everything you have done to protect the watershed we all share!

With all of our sponsors and donors thanked, and all of the excitement of that wonderful Thursday evening tucked away as a fond memory, we are proud to say that our 30th anniversary gala was our best ever. We raised a total of \$126,000 on the evening, exceeding our \$100,000 fundraising goal by 26% and improving on our 2010 gala total by 80%. Although we predicted our final gala revenue for 2011 at \$75,000, we actual brought back an astonishing \$96,000 that immediately went to work protecting the waters and the land of the Great Swamp watershed for another year. What a sublime and stunning result this is!

We owe much this year—and, indeed, every other year—to people, like you, who so enthusiastically continue to support all of GSWA’s environmental education, stewardship, and advocacy programs. The results from our 30th anniversary celebration only confirm this well-known truth.

Thank you all once again for an amazing 30th birthday bash! Our friend and honoree Abbie Fair summed up all our sentiments best when she wrote this note to us in mid-

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*This photograph of a great blue heron (Ardea herodias) in flight over Great Swamp appeared on invitations and other materials associated with GSWA’s 30th anniversary gala. Mendham’s Ari Kaufman shot the image.*

# Watershed Watch – Environmental Hot Spots

by Sally Rubin, GSWA Executive Director

Summarized below are several advocacy situations, or “environmental hot spots,” in which GSWA has recently been involved and, where appropriate, continues to closely monitor.

## Harding: Primrose Farm Estate

Phase One of the open space project, consisting of 45 acres has been fully funded, but not yet closed. GSWA recently applied for a \$200,000 Green Acres grant to assist with funding of Phase Two, approximately 70 acres. The total purchase price for the property is \$9,100,000. GSWA is so pleased to be working closely with Harding Land Trust to preserve this environmentally sensitive property consisting of steep slopes, wetlands, mature woodlands, open meadows, and endangered species habitat.



Field and forest at the Primrose Farm Estate in Harding Township, NJ. Photo: Ari Kaufman.

## Harding: Cell Tower

There is an application before the Harding Township Board of Adjustment for a cell tower at the corner of Tempe Wick Road and Route 202 at the Seventh-day Adventist church. The proposed site is within 250 feet of Primrose Brook, the only C-1 stream in the watershed. The C-1 designation is the highest form of water quality protection afforded by the state. It prevents any measurable deterioration in existing water quality. GSWA has prepared and submitted a letter to the Board of Adjustment and will appear at the hearing to make appropriate public comment objecting to the location of the proposed cell tower.

## Long Hill Township: Copper Springs

Indoor Soccer, LLC is requesting a zone change for this property, located on New Vernon Road near Meyersville Road. The proposed change would rezone the property from a Conservation Zone to a newly created Commercial Recreation Zone. The applicant is also proposing to increase the lot coverage from the current allowable coverage of 15% to 40%. The applicant seeks to install additional recreational bubbles on the property. This property is immediately adjacent to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. GSWA will be following this proposal closely and may actively participate in the application process. 🌲

## Educational Programs

**L**earn more about what's happening in and around Great Swamp by joining us for our spring 2012 educational programs. These mostly-outdoor environmental events are fun and informative for people of all ages and all skill levels (unless otherwise indicated). We look forward to seeing you there!

Please pre-register online for all education events at [www.GreatSwamp.org/EventReg.htm](http://www.GreatSwamp.org/EventReg.htm), unless the event description provides specific registration instructions. Participation is limited for some activities, so remember to register early!

In preparation for all GSWA educational programs, please dress appropriately for the activity and the weather on the day of the event. Sturdy footwear, snacks, and water carried in a reuseable water bottle are recommended for most events. Please feel free to bring binoculars or wildlife field guides if appropriate.

Unless otherwise noted, environmental programs are free for existing GSWA members and their families. Non-member are asked for a voluntary donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child over 5 (6 to 17 yrs.), or \$30 per family. There is no suggested donation for children 5 yrs. and under.

Event dates and times are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Pre-registered participants will be notified of changes by email (if an email address was supplied). Please call our event information hotline at 973-538-3500 x22 for updated scheduling information.

**Rain Garden Workshop**  
**Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.—noon**  
*GSWA Offices, 568 Tempe Wick Rd.,  
Morristown, NJ*

Learn more about the benefits of storing the water that flows from your roof and driveway in a water-quality-improving rain garden. We will demonstrate the process using our very own rain garden. Installed in 2008, GSWA's rain garden feeds a variety of native plants with water diverted from a third of our office's roofline. This is an indoor and outdoor event that will be held rain or shine. This rain garden workshop is presented in partnership with the Chatham Township Environmental Commission and the Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee. Limited to the first 25 registrants.

**Movie Night: A Civil Action with special guest Jan Schlichtmann**  
**Thursday, March 22, doors open at 6:30 p.m., screening begins at 7 p.m.**  
*Morris County Cultural Center,  
300 Mendham Rd., Morristown, NJ*

Join us for movie night and meet renowned personal injury attorney Jan Schlichtmann. Schlichtmann's chemical contamination lawsuit against a chemical manufacturer and tannery in Woburn, Massachusetts, inspired the 1998 film *A Civil Action*, starring John Travolta, which we will screen this evening. Following the film, Mr. Schlichtmann will answer questions about his life and his ongoing environmental work in the field of law. Refreshments will be available. Limited to the first 200 registrants, so please register online right now.

## **Vernal Pool Program**

**Friday, March 30, 6:30–8 p.m.**

*GSWA Conservation Management Area,  
1 Tiger Lily Ln., Morristown, NJ*

Pull on your rubber boots, grab a flashlight, and prepare to get a little wet as you join GSWA on Friday, March 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for a Spring Peeper Party in the vernal pools of our 53-acre Conservation Management Area (CMA). This large tract of forested wetland contains many vernal pools that will be jumping with breeding spring peepers, chorus frogs, wood frogs, and lots of other amphibians. It's fun for the whole family! Limited to the first 25 registrants.

## **An Introduction to Geocaching with Northern New Jersey Cachers**

**Sunday, April 22, time to be announced**

*GSWA Conservation Management Area,  
1 Tiger Lily Ln., Morristown, NJ*

Geocaching, a global game of treasure hunting using longitude and latitude coordinates, is a fun-filled adventure for all ages. With a GPS receiver, and Internet access, you are ready to explore and search for a *geocache*. Join GSWA and the Northern New Jersey Cachers (NNJC) as we present a special introduction to geocaching. This workshop will familiarize participants with geocaching basics and is a great chance to learn and experience this growing eco-friendly family sport. You'll learn about the equipment and all the different types of caches you can find. Experience the thrill of the hunt, and the fulfillment that comes from discovering countless locations of natural beauty and historical interest that you have never seen before!

*(More education programs on next page)*



*A young participant at one of GSWA's previous vernal pool programs gets up close and personal with a clutch of frog eggs.*

## Educational Programs *(continued from previous page)*

### **LEED-certified Green House Tour** **Wednesday, May 30, 9:30 –11:30 a.m.**

*Harding Township, NJ — Register for meeting location.*

Ever wondered what you could do to your home to make it a more environmentally friendly place to live? Join us for a unique tour highlighting the planning and implementation that goes into constructing a LEED-certified home. You don't know that LEED actually stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design? Don't worry, we'll teach you about it and other eco-friendly building terms when you join us on the tour! We will visit the Sheeleigh residence in Harding Township, a LEED-certified property. The property manages 100% of its roofline runoff from rainfall into a series of rain gardens, and has cisterns that store rain water for use in toilets and hose bibs throughout the main house. In May, the gardens will begin to show their beautiful spring colors. Kathy Sheeleigh, our host for the tour, will discuss the design and construction that is involved in undertaking a LEED project. Group size is limited, so register early!

### **Wildlife Photography Workshop with Blaine Rothauser & Ari Kaufman** **Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m.—noon**

*GSWA Offices, 568 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown, NJ*

Have you ever wondered how wildlife photographers get all those amazing pictures of birds, bugs, and mammals that seem to live the majority of their lives out of good camera range? Join professional wildlife photographer Blaine Rothauser and amateur wildlife photographer Ari Kaufman for this hands-on workshop where we will work to improve your wildlife photography skills. We will answer all your burning wildlife photography questions, and show you how to capture striking images of animals seen in the wild. You also will learn more about photography blinds, infrared slaves, setup tanks, and other specialty field equipment. All secrets will be revealed during the first hour of class, then we will venture out as a group to see what the Great Swamp has to offer us as creative photographers. *Please note: GSWA members are asked to contribute \$25 per person toward participation in this event. Non-members are asked to contribute \$40 per person.* 🌿

### **ACROSS THE WATERSHED** is also available electronically

Help reduce our print and mailing costs by signing up for electronic delivery of future issues of *Across the Watershed* at [www.GreatSwamp.org](http://www.GreatSwamp.org) or send an e-mail with your name and address (so we can identify you in our member database) to [sreynolds@GreatSwamp.org](mailto:sreynolds@GreatSwamp.org). By giving GSWA your e-mail address, you'll also receive our monthly e-newsletter, which provides timely

information on upcoming programs and events along with news on what's happening in and around the watershed.

Your e-mail address will be used solely for the purpose of sharing information with you about GSWA-related programs and events. We will not provide your e-mail address to any other person or entity without your permission.



## The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt

GSWA is proud to inaugurate a new event that will spotlight amazing sites of natural, cultural, and historic interest found throughout the watershed we all share. The first Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012, and its goal is to help you enjoy a day outdoors and take you to places you might not know about, or have not thought about visiting before.

How will it work? Well, from 9 a.m. to noon on May 19, you, your family, and friends will stop by our Launch Site at the Kitchell Pond Pavilion at Loantaka Brook Reservation. There you will pick up a set of clues designed to take you on a journey of discovery through our region. Along the way, you will choose where you want to go and what questions you will answer to prove that you've been there.

Scavenge as much or as little as you want throughout the day. This will be your time to explore! But, whatever you do, remember to return to Loantaka Brook Reservation at 4:00 p.m. where we will celebrate your odyssey with refreshments.

While you relax, we will tally up everyone's scavenger hunt results. Special prizes await our highest-scoring scavengers, and, who knows, there just might be one or two more surprises in store!

GSWA is partnering with Morris County Park Commission, Somerset County Park Commission, Morristown National Historical Park, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Great Swamp NWR, Raptor Trust, New Jersey Audubon Society, and Harding Land Trust, so there will be lots of fun and exciting places to visit.

This is shaping up to be one of northern New Jersey's can't-miss events of spring 2012! So remember, save May 19 on your calendars for GSWA's inaugural Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt.

You need to get in this game!

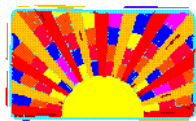
More information about the Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt will be posted on the GSWA website at [www.GreatSwamp.org](http://www.GreatSwamp.org) as it becomes available. See you in May!



Follow us at [www.twitter.com/gswa](http://www.twitter.com/gswa)

## Start Your Day with GSWA

**G**SWA's Breakfast Briefings have returned for spring 2012! These events are traditionally held on the second Tuesday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at GSWA's offices located



at 568 Tempe Wick Road in Morristown, NJ. On occasion, we may adjust the day, time, or location of an event

to accommodate a speaker's schedule or present an additional topic, so please read the event descriptions carefully. Please pre-register for our Breakfast Briefings online at [www.GreatSwamp.org/EventReg.htm](http://www.GreatSwamp.org/EventReg.htm). All Breakfast Briefing events are free for current GSWA members. Unless otherwise noted, non-members are asked to provide a voluntary donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (6—17 yrs.), or \$30 per family.

Here's what's in store for you this season.

### **Landscaping for the Environment Tuesday, March 13, 8—9:30 a.m.**

*Kemmerer Library, 19 Blue Mill Rd., Harding Twp., NJ*

Want to learn how to make your yard more eco-friendly? Join Great Swamp Watershed Association's Laura Kelm and Hazel England as they discuss ways to improve your landscaping to benefit local wildlife, water quality, and environmental conservation. We'll start by reviewing simple tips and techniques designed to help you choose native plants that can manage the water on your property and keep pollution out of nearby streams. Later, you will



*Those attending GSWA's March 13 Breakfast Briefing, Landscaping for the Environment, will tour some of the environmentally friendly landscaping elements we recently installed around Bayne Park Pond in Harding Twp., NJ.*

learn which of those plants and shrubs do well under conditions found in the Great Swamp watershed, and which ones attract beneficial wildlife. This event includes an indoor presentation and an outdoor tour of recent plantings at Harding's Bayne Park. Kemmerer Library is in no way responsible for the content or views presented during this event.

**Why Is New Jersey's Weather Changing?  
Tuesday, April 10, 8–9:30 a.m.**

Hurricanes, freak snowstorms, 100-year flood events—what's coming next? If you've worried about our weather over the last twelve months, or the overall effects of climate change on your life here in New Jersey, you need to join us for this presentation by Anthony Broccoli, director of the Rutgers Center for Environmental Predication. Professor Broccoli will tell us what to expect of the changing weather in our state, and he also will explain how study of the causes of climate change might help us better prepare for what is coming. Climate change will have profound effects on our environment and our society. Use this opportunity to inform yourself about the local consequences.

**The Future of New Jersey's Forests  
Tuesday, May 8, 8–9:30 a.m.**

What is going on with the woods? What threats do New Jersey's forests face? Join Leslie Sauer, founder of the ecological restoration consultancy Andropogon Associates and author of *The Once and Future Forest*, as she speaks about the environmental and manmade threats facing New Jersey woodlands. Topics covered may include deer overpopulation, non-native invasive species introduction, forest fragmentation, and logging plans. What do we have to watch for in our state and protected forests next time we are out for a hike in the woods? Come to this talk and find out!

**Unlock the Secrets of Great Swamp's Small  
Creatures: 2011 Findings from an Ongoing  
Study of Macroinvertebrates  
Tuesday, May 22, 8–9:30 a.m.**

*Kemmerer Library, 19 Blue Mill Rd., Harding  
Twp., NJ*

Macroinvertebrates—known outside of scientific circles as bugs, worms, mollusks and other small, spineless creatures—are useful when it comes to studying water quality and environmental conditions in and around a stream. For instance, dragonflies, aquatic snails, and flatworms can indicate whether the water in a stream is truly clean.

Dr. Lee Pollock, retired Drew University Professor of Biology, has studied these small creatures each year in the Great Swamp watershed since 1992. Join us to hear findings from his 2011 studies, along with his long-term view of environmental trends and what they mean for our local waters.

**There is no suggested donation requested for non-member attendance.** Please pre-register online at [www.GreatSwamp.org/EventReg.htm](http://www.GreatSwamp.org/EventReg.htm). Kemmerer Library is in no way responsible for the content or views presented during this event. 🌲

Please be sure to let us know if you change your e-mail address. Send a note with your name, address, and old e-mail address to [sreynolds@greatswamp.org](mailto:sreynolds@greatswamp.org) so you don't miss out on our new monthly e-newsletters.

# Geocaching: Enjoy the Outdoors While Hunting for Treasure!

by John Neale

*Editor's note: John Neale, or Old Navy as he is known in the geocaching world, is the President of the Northern New Jersey Cachers (NNJC.org) and a frequent GSWA volunteer.*

**G**eocaching is a term most commonly used to identify the sport of caching, which is frequently described as a high-tech game of hide-and-seek. A geocache (pronounced geō•cash) is a hidden treasure that you locate using a GPS (Global Positioning System) device. A perfect sport for adventure seekers of all ages around the world, geocaching provides hours of fun for anyone who wants to get outside and enjoy a good hunt!

## What is Geocaching?

Geocaching shares a lot with benchmarking, orienteering, letterboxing, and waymarking; each makes use of GPS technology to hide and seek caches, or locate virtual locations. In your daily travels you probably pass by many of these little treasures just waiting to be discovered. They are hidden along main streets, at shopping centers, on street signs, and along scenic hiking trails. In short, geocaches are all around us.

Cache containers come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They might be found inside something as large as an Army-surplus ammunition box, or they might be found inside miniscule boxes called *nanos* which can be as small as the width of a finger nail. The contents of each cache container you

find will vary widely. Some will hold small trade items and a logbook where you can sign your name, others, especially the nanos, hold micro-logs only big enough to fit your tiny signature. Once you have located a cache and concluded your adventure, you will want to register your find online and write about your experiences. There are a few websites that will help you.

## Some Geocaching History & Facts

1. Geocaching was born May 1, 2000, after the Clinton administration decided to stop scrambling the GPS signals from a series of orbiting U.S. satellites. This decision paved the way for allowing people to pinpoint their positions anywhere on the face of the earth.
2. On May 3, 2000, the first geocache was placed in Oregon, and, within days of that watershed event, geocaches could be found throughout the United States and as far away as the continent of Australia.
3. The oldest and largest geocaching website is **Geocaching.com**. It serves more than five million registered geocachers and lists more than 1.6 million geocaches located in more than 200 countries worldwide.
4. When this article was written, New Jersey had more than over 10,000 geocaches.
5. **Opencaching.com**, which is owned by Garmin Intl., and **Terracaching.com** are two other websites offering geocache listings.

## What Can Geocaching Do?

Geocaching serves as a powerful information tool for communities. It spotlights tourism, environmental and historic sites, and other places of importance around the world. Many geocaching organizations partner with the U.S. National Park Service, state and county park commissions, non-profits, nature and land conservancies, and other organizations to help promote and give back to the places they visit.

Geocaching is also a great teaching tool. Searching for a cache alerts the geocacher to the significance of the area or region being explored. For example, each of the seven caches currently placed at GSWA's Conservation Management Area (CMA) are themed to provide information about local environmental conditions in the Great Swamp watershed. Open any of the CMA caches and you are bound to learn something about local ecology, whether it is an exercise on the ecological importance of vernal pools, or a lesson about biodiversity and the critical role we all play in the protection of habitat for wildlife like the barred owl (*Strix varia*) or the state-endangered wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*).

## Who are the Northern New Jersey Cachers (NNJC)?

Northern New Jersey Cachers (NNJC), is a non-profit organization that is very active in New Jersey. Our members partner with many different organizations to provide support for designing and installing new trail



*Sarah Abbott, daughter of Kathy and Ken Abbott of Chatham Township, discovers what's inside one of seven geocaches hidden at GSWA's Conservation Management Area in Harding Township, November 2011.*

systems, promoting environmental issues, cleaning up parks (including New Jersey's Meadowlands marshlands and Round Valley Reservoir), and teaching the sport of geocaching in a way that promotes excellent land stewardship practice.

In fact, NNJC has partnered with GSWA since 2010. We helped build an elevated boardwalk across a marsh at the CMA. We

*(continued on page 24)*

# The State of the Streams in the Great Swamp Watershed

by Laura Kelm, Director of Water Quality Programs

**W**hat can more than ten years of water quality data tell you? That is what GSWA is hoping to find out from our current project, State of the Streams. The project, funded with a grant from The Watershed Institute, will look at past water quality data to determine the current health of our streams and how they have changed over time.

Water quality data has been collected in the Great Swamp Watershed by GSWA, and, in the past, by the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee. This chemical, biological, and visual water quality

data has been gathered at sites along all five major streams and some of their tributaries. Looking at the data as a whole can help us see reasons for water quality decline or improvement at specific sites. For example, if the macroinvertebrate community at a site declines suddenly one year, we can look at chemical and visual data for upstream sites around that time period; maybe a visual assessment will note a new development near the stream, or maybe chemical sampling will indicate high suspended solids.

In a similar fashion, by looking comprehensively at several years of data we also see what problems are persistent. We already know that total dissolved solids (from road salt) are impacting several of our streams, but maybe there are other issues creeping in that we have yet to identify. When we know what is affecting our streams, GSWA can better target its future actions for protecting and improving local water quality. Look for a completed State of the Streams report in the fall. 🌲



Volunteer Wes Boyce uses a water quality meter to collect data from Indian Grave Brook in Bernards Township, November 2011.

Become a fan of GSWA  
and join the cause on

facebook



*This stunning image of a white-breasted nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis) was captured by professional photographer Blaine Rothauser. ©2005 Blaine Rothauser*

### **Shop At Back to Nature & Support GSWA**

It may be time to think about the coming spring and your outdoor space. Maybe it is time to design a patio or rain garden or outdoor kitchen or fire pit. Why not design something that you can enjoy for years but will also improve the ecology of your property and neighborhood.

Back to Nature architects will design a custom space to your lifestyle but will also design in regenerative concepts that eliminate runoff, and heat load, or take into consideration wildlife and soil. Luxury does not need to come at the nature's expense.

As a member of GSWA you will also be entitled to a **10% discount** on everything at Back to Nature:

- Merchandise at the Back to Nature retail store located at 3055 Valley Road in Basking Ridge
- Eco-Friendly Landscape & Outdoor Living Design
- Landscaping including: Large Tree Installation, Meadows, & Native Plantings
- Construction including: Pools, Masonry, Old World Walls, Terraces, Outdoor Kitchens & More

You can buy a handmade bird house from Back to Nature for \$49.99. You'll receive a \$4.99 discount, and GSWA will receive a \$2.75 donation. If you're building a \$35,000 terrace, you receive a \$3,500 discount, and GSWA receives a \$1,925 donation.

Support GSWA this year and receive your member discount by using the code **GreatSwamp10** at the Back to Nature store or when calling 908-439-4639 for landscape services throughout the year. Sponsored by Conservation Resources, Inc.

## Got Some Time? Volunteer!

**T**here are lots of ways to help GSWA protect our waters and our land. Here are a few upcoming opportunities for you, your family, and your friends to become GSWA volunteers.

Please register online at [www.GreatSwamp.org](http://www.GreatSwamp.org) to let us know if you want to volunteer for these events. Additional information about volunteering is available by calling 973-538-3500.

### **Annual Stream Cleanup & Enhancement at Loantaka Brook Reservation Sunday, March 18, 1–4 p.m.**

GSWA will hold its annual stream cleanup and enhancement in Loantaka Brook Reservation on March 18, 2012. Activities along the banks of Loantaka Brook will include invasive plant removal, planting native plants, and trash cleanup. Volunteers ages 15 and above should wear long pants, long sleeves, and shoes or boots that can get wet and muddy. Participants should gather at the South Street Recreation Area located at 43 South St., Morristown, NJ.

*In late October 2011, volunteers helped GSWA install environmentally friendly landscaping elements at Bayne Park in Harding Twp., NJ. The plantings will help slow the flow of stormwater runoff and pollution from a nearby road.*



### **Spring Cleanup Day at the Conservation Management Area (CMA) Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**


Please join GSWA's Director of Education and Outreach and Land Steward Hazel England for a spring cleanup at our 53-acre Conservation Management Area (CMA) in Harding, NJ. GSWA relies on the support and work of volunteers as we maintain and restore this important open space to become a functional floodplain forest again. Work on March 24 will focus on preparing the property for springtime visitors. Tasks will include chipping, mulching and edging trails, cleaning nest boxes so they are ready for spring residents, and carrying lumber to help build boardwalks over the wettest portions. All tools and supplies will be provided. Show up with energy and enthusiasm, and we will handle the rest.



**Volunteer Training: Visual & Biological Stream Assessment**  
**Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.**

Want to get outside and help GSWA? We are looking for a few good volunteers to conduct visual assessments of streams in our watershed. Visual assessments are conducted at stream reaches throughout the region twice per year, and they help us to know what's happening along our streams. During an assessment, volunteers record information about the amount of canopy cover over the stream, nearby land uses, the clarity of the water, and more. Before you are ready to conduct an assessment, you will need to attend our training session. Our next training session takes place on March 31, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will also cover macroinvertebrate assessments.

**Work Day at the Conservation Management Area (CMA)**  
**Saturday, June 16, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

Please join GSWA's Director of Education and Outreach and Land Steward Hazel England for a late spring workday at our 53-acre Conservation Management Area (CMA) in Harding, NJ. GSWA relies on the support and work of volunteers as we maintain and restore this important open space to become a functional floodplain forest again. Work on June 16 will likely focus on creating a seating and picnic area at the entrance to the property, removing invasive species invading the property, and replanting with native shrubs and perennials within our 28-acre deer enclosure. 

## Help Us Spread the Word!

GSWA will be talking to a lot of people about our shared local environment this year. You can help us by lending us your voice and your hands as we reach out to local communities with messages about our education, stewardship, and advocacy programs. Help us staff the GSWA exhibit table for a couple of hours at the following events:

**Morris EarthFest**  
**April 28, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.**

**New Jersey Audubon's May Day Celebration**  
**May 5 or 6, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.**

**Chatham Fishawack Day**  
**June 9, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.**

If you are interested in helping out at one of these events, please call Hazel England, our director of education and outreach, at 973-538-3500 x20 or write to hazele@greatswamp.org. We'll give you all the training and support you will need to effectively communicate GSWA's environmental mission.

# Instant Riches vs. Drinking Water Pollution Fears

by Jim Northrop, GSWA Land Use Committee Member and Volunteer

Lately there has been much interest in harvesting natural gas from shale deposits; specifically, drilling in the Marcellus Shale deposit under a large area of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. The gas is extracted by fracking (a.k.a. hydraulic fracturing), forcing water and sand under pressure deep into the shale to break open the gas-filled cavities and pump out the gas. The water used in fracking contains toxic chemicals which remain in the shale and may be picked up by nearby ground water. Each drilled location is different, but predictably some of these toxic chemicals may find their way into wells and other sources of

everyday drinking water. Once polluted, such drinking water sources sometimes are unsafe for many years, even after extensive and expensive remediation.

In 2011, the New Jersey Legislature passed a fracking ban, but industry lobbyists mounted an aggressive lobbying effort against the bill. In the end they convinced Gov. Chris Christie to veto the fracking ban and turn it into a one-year moratorium. Later, the governor included fracking in his finalized Energy Master Plan for New Jersey.

It is easy to appreciate some of the arguments used by fracking advocates. Increased natural gas drilling using fracking

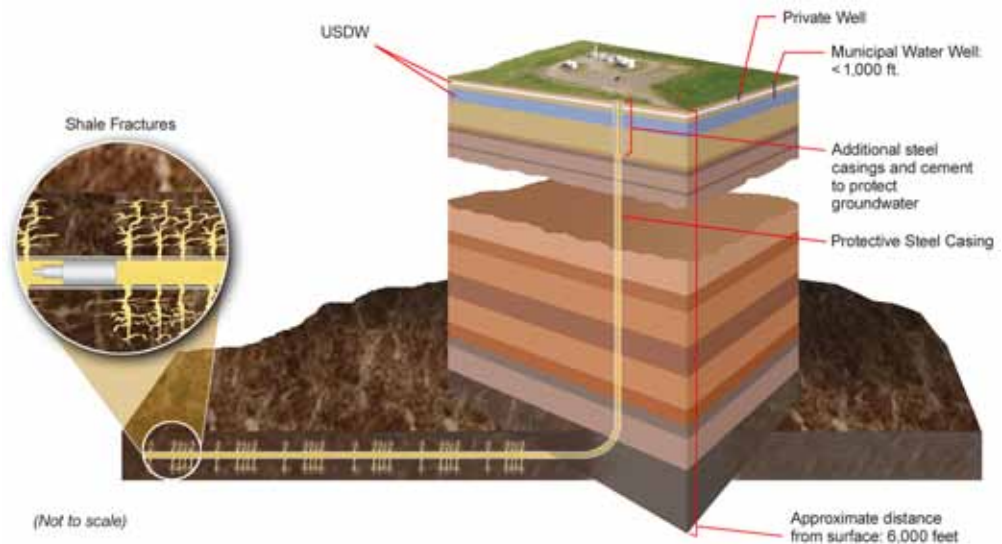


Diagram of a natural gas well created for the hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) technique. From "Shale Gas: Applying Technology to Solve America's Energy Challenge," published by the U.S. Dept. of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 2011.

can create a large number of new jobs. In turn, there would be an increase in state income tax collection, and more fees collected for permits and licenses. Also, creating new sources of natural gas within the state makes it a less expensive fuel, it is said, and we would have more control over its availability. Finally, increased use of natural gas as a fuel is desirable because it has cleaner emissions than coal; thus, a smaller carbon footprint.

However, there are some difficult questions about the fracking process. Instances of gas bubbling from fracked sites into nearby water wells have been extensively documented. The industry has also acknowledged that fracking liquids can end up in aquifers because of failures in the casing of wells, spills that occur above ground, or by other means. Contamination from fracking fluids is considered worrisome because the fluids contain carcinogens like benzene. Some fracking procedures even use diesel fuel in the fracking fluid.

Disposal of contaminated waste water and sludge is difficult. In Pennsylvania, most drilling companies have stopped sending their waste water through local treatment plants. Many waste water treatment plants were not designed to remove fracking contaminants from water before discharging it into rivers. Some states are now talking about the need for a tracking system so they will know where drillers dispose of drilling waste. This is not a trivial problem, as fracking drillers typically use millions of gallons of water in a short period of time.

Texas was the first state requiring disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking fluids. However, even though the chemicals used in the fluid must be declared, the precise mixture is not required to be reported. More importantly, the driller can decide that certain chemicals are still exempt from disclosure because of trade-secret status. Other states are beginning to require disclosure of fracking chemicals, but often they lack the resources for regularly inspecting working well sites to ensure compliance. Then there are the abandoned oil and gas wells that do not receive regular inspections. A 1999 report by the U.S. Dept. of Energy said there were about 2.5 million abandoned oil and natural gas wells in the U.S. at that time. Sometimes, abandoned wells serve as conduits for drinking water pollution.

Pennsylvania limits gas development in densely populated urban areas, but not in suburban spaces. Wells are required to be at least 500 feet from any house. While the Pennsylvania legislation sets some state-wide uniform standards, it takes authority away from local municipalities that might regulate land use in a particular jurisdiction—local zoning will no longer be in control for fracking drillers. To get around this political issue, the Pennsylvania Legislature enacted a tax on shale gas production. They plan to split the proceeds of the tax between tax-starved municipalities and counties, on the one hand, and the state on the other. But,

*(continued on page 22)*

# Fall Storms & Our Local Water Pollution Control Utilities

by Laura Kelm, Director of Water Quality Programs

I'm sure we all remember the impacts that Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee had on our homes, businesses, and towns. GSWA was curious if the storms had any impacts on the two water pollution control utilities (a.k.a. WPCUs, or wastewater treatment plants) located in the watershed.

The Woodland Water Pollution Control Utility of Morris Township discharges into Loantaka Brook. The plant did suffer a power outage as a result of the storms, but a backup generator was able to keep the plant running as usual. Timothy O'Dell, assistant superintendent of the WPCU, noted that the plant was designed to treat a maximum of 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd), while its average daily volume is only half that amount. This allows excess volume generated by storms to be held and treated afterward to meet state water quality requirements for WPCU effluent.

The Chatham Township WPCU, which discharges to Black Brook, also lost power during the storms, but was kept online with power from a backup generator. The maximum permitted flow at this smaller plant is 0.875 mgd. During the days after Hurricane Irene, the plant saw volumes as high as 2.26 mgd. Marc Christensen, the water pollution control manager, said that while the excess flow meant that the water moved through the plant faster than normal, the WPCU still met all of its target requirements for effluent.

Here are some other interesting facts and figures about these two WPCUs—

The Morris Twp. Woodland WPCU:

- had its new system built in 1992 to provide tertiary treatment.
- can retain 1.5 mgd for future treatment.
- has no combined sewer overflows (a.k.a. CSOs).

*(continued on page 23)*



Volunteer Steve Gruber wades into knee-high flood waters to repair damage done to GSWA's Conservation Management Area by Hurricane Irene, August 2011. The storm caused severe flooding throughout the watershed for several days. Photo courtesy of John Neale.

## GSWA Announces Changes to its Board of Trustees

**G**SWA extends a warm welcome to the newest members of its Board of Trustees, Jack Schrier and Eric Inglis. We also welcome former board members Dot Stillinger and Michael Dee back to active service.

Jack Schrier is a former Morris County Freeholder, former Mendham Township Committeeman, and former Acting Chairman of the New Jersey Highlands Council. Eric Inglis is a Supreme-Court-

certified civil trial attorney and a partner at Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP. Welcome to the Board of Trustees, Jack and Eric!

Dorothea (Dot) Stillinger, is a longtime GSWA supporter and the current chair of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission. Michael Dee, another long-time GSWA supporter, is Executive Vice President of Ce De Candy, Inc., in Union, NJ. Welcome back to the Board, Dot and Michael!

Several of our trustees have taken on new board responsibilities this year. David Budd returns to the role of Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He also serves as chair of our Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Trusteeship Committee. Phyllis Fast takes over responsibilities as GSWA's Treasurer, and also chairs our Land Use Committee. Dot Stillinger now chairs our Development Committee, and Chuck Gullage is chair of our Science & Technology Committee. Lisa Stevens will continue in her role as chair of our Education & Outreach Committee.

If you have an interest in environmental stewardship, education, and advocacy, and seek an opportunity to provide your support and services as a member of the Great Swamp Watershed Association's Board of Trustees, please contact Executive Director Sally Rubin at 973-538-3500. 🌲

### **Thank you to departing board members Ben Wolkowitz, Anne Essner, Paul Hackett, and Jim MacDonald**

The Great Swamp Watershed Association would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the personal dedication of our retiring board members—Ben Wolkowitz, Anne Essner, Paul Hackett, and Jim MacDonald. Their unflagging support and generosity has helped us continue our mission of protecting water resources in the region, advocating for responsible land development practices, and fostering education and outreach within local communities. Thank you again for truly making a difference, and for helping to move GSWA forward in the development of new and innovative programs that serve our community... and our planet.

## From the Desk *(continued from page 3)*

and equestrian trail riding. Since the land is located adjacent to Barrett Field—a municipal park—parking and access to the space will be convenient. The preservation of the remaining Primrose Farm land will go a long way toward helping us maintain water quality and wildlife in this corner of our watershed.

As we continue to think about the world around us, and our local environment in particular, remember that, at least for now, we're fortunately not at war over our land or our water. Even so, you can rest assured that GSWA is still here doing its part to protect all of our natural resources ... 🌿

### **GSWA Experts Available to Speak to Area Groups**

Do you wonder, "What is in my water?" or "What can I do to ensure clean water for my children?" These and other questions about water quality, land preservation, and local efforts to protect the environment can be answered by GSWA's Speakers Bureau, who will present interesting, hands-on presentations that will educate and inspire members of your local club or group. Call today for more details: (973) 538-3500 x13.

## Instant Riches *(continued from page 19)*

it appears that the proceeds of the tax will go into the Pennsylvania State Treasury for general use, rather than enforcement of fracking regulations. Furthermore, while Pennsylvania has taken steps to regulate fracking, their legislation has no provisions to hold the industry accountable, and local government is now powerless to protect from fracking abuses. Other states likewise have lax regulation and little or no provision for enforcement.

Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania and in other Marcellus Shale states, gas drilling companies have approached farmers and other landowners, seeking to obtain leases for the purpose of gas drilling. In these times of economic hardship in the area of the Marcellus Shale, these leases are seen by many as sort of a bonanza. Typically, when gas production starts, the landowner will be entitled to royalties on the output. For the landowner, this might be easy money, but to those contending with potential drinking water contamination, increased heavy truck traffic, safe wastewater disposal, and removal of drilling infrastructure when well are no longer productive—the final costs may well outweigh the bonanza. 🌿



**GSWA is now blogging at**  
<http://acrosstthewatershed.blogspot.com>

## Fall Storms *(continued from page 20)*

The Chatham Twp. WPCU:

- has a normal flow under 0.875 mgd.
- took precautionary measures before Irene hit, including reducing the amount of solids held in inventory, in order to hold greater capacity during the storm.
- increases its flow during precipitation events because of open tanks at the WPCU, some infiltration from manhole covers and pipes, and some illegal hookups of rain gutters into sewer lines.
- has no combined sewer overflows (a.k.a. CSOs).
- measured the following flows after Irene: 1.54 mgd on 8/27/2011, 2.26 mgd on 8/28/2011, 1.435 mgd on 8/29/2011, 1.441 mgd on 8/30/2011, and 1.167 mgd on 8/31/2011. 🌳

## Gala *(continued from page 4)*

October: “The crowded room at the gala was a great testament to the work GSWA has done and continues to do to protect the Great Swamp...and its watershed. Working for clean water is essential to the future.”

We look forward to seeing you at our next gala celebration! 🌳

### **Know Someone Who Would Like to Become a Member?**

GSWA relies on members like you to help protect our watershed's natural resources. So please pass this newsletter along, and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us! Visit [www.GreatSwamp.org](http://www.GreatSwamp.org) for more information.

## **GSWA Invites You to Support our “Wish List”**

If you're wondering how member support is making a difference, here are just a few examples:

- \$25 buys a pond study kit for one classroom
- \$50 buys a stream flow kit — including “rubber duckies” for stream monitoring
- \$100 helps buy native shrubs for restoration of the Conservation Management Area
- \$250 sponsors community outreach and education presentations and teacher workshops
- \$500 helps fund advocacy programs that educate citizens of all ages about the importance of preserving and protecting our limited natural resources
- \$1,000 buys deer enclosure fencing for three acres at the Conservation Management Area

If you would like to make a donation, or encourage your friends and neighbors to become members of GSWA, visit [www.GreatSwamp.org](http://www.GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500, x21.


## **Sustainable Jersey** *(continued from page 1)*

Jersey certification provides positive public recognition and more funding opportunities for new sustainability projects.

Several towns around the Great Swamp watershed have followed up their intent to pursue certification by attaining either a bronze or a silver certification. GSWA has partnered with several of these municipalities by becoming a member of the Green Teams they have created, and by aiding with water conservation or education-related activities. The table (on page 1) shows where communities are regarding certification status.

Most recently, GSWA sent a delegate to participate as a panel member in a water conservation education event in Chatham Township. On March 10, 2012, Chatham Township will co-sponsor a GSWA rain garden workshop and educational program that will showcase how rain gardens can effectively manage stormwater within a property by slowing its flow into streams and water treatment plants.

Some of the other actions we have taken in other towns and municipalities include co-sponsoring public sustainability discussions and movie events, appearing at green fairs with important watershed information, and presenting informative education programs on non-point-source pollution, waste reduction, and water conservation techniques.

Why not check out how your own town is trying to become a more sustainable community? Maybe GSWA can help you improve the places where you live, work, and play. Give us a call. 

## **Geocaching** *(continued from page 13)*

also placed the CMA's seven geocaches in anticipation of attracting scores of cachers to the site from all over and beyond New Jersey.

In 2012, NNJC will continue to promote GSWA, the CMA, and the Great Swamp. We will help construct some new CMA trails and we will create more geocaches along them. We also will partner with GSWA to create a new caching event called the Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt (see page 9) which will challenge folks from all walks of life to travel around the watershed gathering clues and compete in a fun and educational outdoor activity.

### **Summary**

Geocaching provides a great opportunity for an adventure of discovery alongside your family. It gives you a reason to take that long, leisurely drive to a new and exciting place. It teaches you and your children new and exciting things. It adds a spark of excitement to weekends and vacations, as you explore Mother Nature's many wonders and secret places. There is a geocache adventure out there for everyone, so grab your GPS unit and join the quest for outdoor adventure.

For more information about geocaching, please visit [www.NNJC.org](http://www.NNJC.org). 

Please be sure to let us know if you change your e-mail address. Send a note with your name, address, and old e-mail address to [sreynolds@greatswamp.org](mailto:sreynolds@greatswamp.org) so you don't miss out on our new monthly e-newsletters.



# Welcome New Members

We offer special thanks and a warm welcome to the following people and organizations who became members of GSWA between August 25, 2011 and February 9, 2012. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is correct. If we have made a mistake, please do let us know, and please accept our apology.

Ms. Ethel Ashenfelter  
Ms. Jane Becker  
Mr. & Mrs. Harden Boyce  
Mr. Thomas Burdzy  
Ms. Gretchen Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cotler  
Eva & Wade Deffenbaugh  
Ms. Margaret Domber  
Ms. Margarita J. Fazzolari  
Ms. Cheryl Federico  
Karen & Tom Finan  
Mr. Glen Fleischer  
Mr. George Frankola  
Ms. Mabel M. Furstner  
Mr. & Mrs. Manfred W. Ganzer  
Ms. Sally Gilbert

Ms. Kathryn Gouldie  
Ms. Patricia Harris  
Mr. Ed Jacobs  
Ms. Jacqueline Kaufman  
Mr. Gary Kazin  
Ms. Catherine Keim  
Ms. Nancy Kuster  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Deane Leonard  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Lind  
Ms. Janet Loengard  
Ms. Teri Lyman  
Christine & Ray Mann  
Mr. Michael C. Newlon  
Ms. Maureen Ogden  
Ms. Lillian M. Phillips  
Ms. Shirley A. Rennon

Ms. Virginia T. Robinson  
Ms. Barbara M. Rudolph  
Mr. John Saleeby  
Mr. Stephen Scammell  
Ms. Barbara Shalit  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shissias  
Mr. Michael Simoff  
Ms. Cynthia Steffens  
Mr. Dean Talcott  
Mr. & Mrs. William Ullrich  
Ms. Jeanne K. Van Steen  
Mr. & Mrs. James Vasios  
Ms. Judy Vincent  
Ms. Anne E. Wallwork  
Ms. Robin Whitely

We also thank those who chose to remain anonymous.



*A gray tree frog (Hyla versicolor) perches in a blueberry bush.  
Photo ©2006 Blaine Rothausen.*

# Year-end Appeal Donors

GSWA would like to thank the following members and contributors who gave so generously to our 2011 year-end appeal. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is correct. If we have made a mistake, please do let us know, and please accept our apology.

Achenbach & Associates, LLC  
Mr. Jack Ackerman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Ahlstrom  
Mr. Christopher Alberth & Mr. James Casola  
Ms. Karen Alexander & Mr. A. Eines  
Mr. James Allan  
Ms. Carol Allan  
Mr. William Allen  
Mr. Alfred Angelo  
Mr. George Applegate  
Applied Nutrition Corp.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Asdourian  
Mr. Scott Bagish  
Robert & Rosalie Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Ball  
Mr. Joseph L. Balwierczak  
Rajat and Rachna Bannerji  
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Barrett  
Ms. Ginger Barrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Barton, III  
Barton Nursery  
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Ms. Ellen Ivey Bates  
Mr. Richard E. Batherman  
George Baumgardner, MD  
Mr. Mark Baumgarten  
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