



The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Across the Watershed

Spring-Summer 2016

Protecting our Waters and our Land for more than 30 Years

Improving Loantaka Brook, One Pipe at a Time

by Laura Kelm, Director of Water Quality Programs

Poor **Loantaka Brook** is a phrase often groaned between GSWA staff and Stream Team volunteers. Loantaka Brook, which originates in downtown Morristown and Morris Township, is the most impaired stream in the Great Swamp Watershed, frequently failing the NJ water quality standards for total dissolved solids from road salt (even in August!), home to poor macroinvertebrate communities, and most recently very high levels of *E. coli* bacteria. It's not the stream's fault of course; pressures from development and various human activities are to blame.

This past summer, GSWA's *E. coli* monitoring program found very high levels of *E. coli* in Loantaka Brook, particularly at sites near Morris Township's Ginty Pool and upstream by Woodland Ave. As you may know, *E. coli* is an indicator of fecal pollution from warm-blooded animals, such as birds, dogs,

raccoons, and humans. We would expect high *E. coli* levels during and right after a rainstorm, since stormwater runoff can carry fecal matter deposited on land into local water bodies. (Speaking of that, have you picked up after your dog lately?) High *E. coli* levels during dry weather indicate

(continued on page 4)



Biodegradable dye was used to trace the pipe to a storm drain in a nearby development. Credit: A. Follett.

From the Desk of the Executive Director



by Sally Rubin

This week, Rick Porter, Director of Institutional Relations, hit the submit button on a new and exciting grant opportunity. Kudos to Rick for all his hard work. The grant is through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program (NFWF). This collaborative project will bring many partners together, from non-profits to for-profit companies, and varied academic institutions to implement green infrastructure projects in Paterson at three different school locations.

Paterson is a combined sewer overflow (CSO) community where stormwater and sewage mix together and exceed sewer treatment capacities during peak flows, polluting the Passaic River. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection is strongly advocating green infrastructure projects as a solution to this issue and encourages community collaborations to improve water quality, beautify neighborhoods and improve overall quality of life in urban communities.

The three schools have been selected both for their proximity to the Passaic River and their susceptibility to flooding from stormwater runoff. On several occasions, one or more of the schools have been closed for extended periods of time due to flooding. Our project seeks funding for environmental programs that will engage

nearly 400 students from select classes at these schools in the research, planning, design and building of bioretention areas, also known as rain gardens, in locations that will reduce stormwater runoff into the Passaic River. This will improve the river's water quality, provide new habitats to attract pollinators such as monarch butterflies, and enhance wildlife migration routes.

Through a separate grant, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program will be constructing the three bioretention basins at the school sites. On completion, there will be one less acre of impervious surface and stormwater runoff into the Passaic River will be reduced by one million gallons and 200 pounds of sediment.

The educational components of the NFWF grant include in class demonstrations, workshops and field trips to engage the students in meaningful, real-life environmental learning experiences that will have them personally interacting with a variety of professionals in the environmental field. The students will be involved with research, design, material selection, and implementation of the rain gardens.

Field trips are planned to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge where the students will learn about the importance of wetlands, wildlife habitats, native vegetation, pollinators and migratory birds. The refuge staff will assist the students in selecting the types of habitats they want for their rain

gardens. Other field trips will include tours of a water treatment facility and waste water treatment facility so the students gain an understanding of where their water comes from and where it goes. Finally, the students will take a tour of the Passaic by boat with the Hackensack Riverkeeper. The goal is for the students to learn the upstream downstream connection of their river, to view the river holistically, and to learn the river's value.

We are very excited about the collaboration of communities upstream and downstream in this project. We will be working closely with the three public schools in Paterson: JFK Educational Center, Paterson Public School #4 and Paterson Public School #28. We will also be working closely with the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. Our other field trip partners are: New Jersey American Water Company, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and Hackensack Riverkeeper. Additionally, the City of Paterson Mayor, Jose Torres, is a big supporter of the green infrastructure projects. NY/NJ Baykeeper, City Green, Paterson Habitat for Humanity, and the Passaic River Institute at Montclair State University will play important roles in education, outreach, and communication. We sincerely believe that the community support this project has already received will ensure its success.

Ultimately, we hope the students understand flooding issues and develop a commitment to protecting our lands and waters. Imagine creating three new green spaces and natural habitats in a municipality where there is virtually none. The impact of that, not only on the water, land and wildlife is huge, but on the children, adults and families calling Paterson home is immeasurable. 🌱

Across the Watershed

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

GSWA is a member-supported non-profit organization that has been protecting the waters and the land of the Great Swamp Watershed for more than 30 years.

Editor: Sally Rubin

Designer: Ann Campbell

Contributors:

Nicole Altneu
 Amye Follett
 Ari Kaufman
 Laura Kelm
 Sue Kessel
 Sue Levine
 Kelly Martin
 Chris Mezzacappa
 Rick Porter
 Dan Ross
 Sally Rubin

In This Issue:

Improving Loantaka Brook	1
From the Executive Director	2
Watershed Watch	6
Outdoor Programs	8
Test Your Well Water With GSWA	9
Mary Bruno Talks	10
Speaker Series	11
Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt	12
Home & Garden Tour	14
Thanking Our Grantors	15
2015 Annual Gala	16
GSWA Welcomes Dan Ross	18
From the Development Corner	19
Board Happenings	20
Financial Report	22



Follow us at www.twitter.com/gswa

Improving Loantaka Brook *(continued from page 1)*

a constant source into the stream, such as from a failing septic system, animals directly accessing the water, or a broken sewer pipe.

In July and mid-August, I conducted a few rounds of follow-up monitoring in upstream Loantaka Brook that were inconclusive. I tried again in late August, heading upstream with laboratory staff Darren Pogozelski and Albert Simmons from Morris Township's Butterworth Water Pollution Control Utility (WPCU; wastewater treatment plant). The WPCU's lab assisted in the investigation by processing several rounds of follow-up samples for us. Darren and Albert joined me in the field to see the monitoring sites and get a better sense of what might be causing the high *E. coli* levels.

After we collected samples from sites near Woodland Avenue, we walked further upstream along the field behind Morris Township's Woodland Elementary School. There were a few pipes entering the stream, but it was difficult to tell if they had any flow since they were partially submerged in the stream. Some areas of the stream had very clear flowing water (though clear doesn't always mean healthy since much of what we test for isn't visible to the naked eye). As we made our way upstream, there were many sand bars along the banks of Loantaka Brook, and those sandbars were covered in raccoon and other wildlife prints. Could wildlife entering the stream cause such high *E. coli* levels?

Even further upstream, there was a large pipe close to the school. The pipe had a flow, which could have been our culprit, or it could have been clean groundwater from a high water table.

A return trip later in the fall allowed us to collect a sample from the large pipe and two additional sites further upstream. The pipe's flow had a distinct sewage odor although the water was clear. Results confirmed it; the water from the pipe had *E. coli* levels 25 times higher than the state standard, and 21 times higher than Loantaka Brook only 40' upstream.

The next step was to figure out where the pipe originated. I headed into the field with Mark Gandy from Morristown's Engineering Division, and GSWA intern Amye Follett. We were able to trace the pipe back to a nearby housing development. Since it was raining



Director of Water Quality, Laura Kelm, samples the pipe that flows into Loantaka Brook. Credit: K. Martin

when we met, Mark put biodegradable green dye into the storm drain in question, and after several minutes it came out of the pipe in Loantaka Brook, which verified that the storm drain was indeed connected to the pipe in question. Looking at blueprints for the community showed that the large pipe drains stormwater from several storm drains within the development, and potentially another development across the street. These storm pipes also cross over sanitary (wastewater) pipes in several locations. A crack in both pipes at any one crossing (for example, from a rock between the pipes that caused the pipes to crack as they settled over time) could allow sewage to leak into the stormwater system.

Because the sewer and stormwater pipe systems in the development are so extensive, we needed more sampling to determine where exactly the leak originated. In January, I met Mark Gandy again to collect samples from several of the stormwater pipes. One storm drain in particular had a noticeable odor of sewage, occasional warm air rising from it, and higher water temperature. We thought for sure that was our pipe, but the results were not what we expected. Almost all samples were well below the NJ state standard, including the pipe where we thought the sewage was coming from.

We have a few potential options to try next:

- Sample from each end of the large pipe where we first found the issue in Loantaka Brook to see if the *E. coli* levels at each end are similar. This will allow us to verify that there are no other connections to the

pipe between the development and the stream.

- The most recent set of samples were collected mid-morning during the week. It is possible that the *E. coli* levels were low because many people were not home. We can try to go back and sample during a time when more people are likely to be home.
- Collect samples for a few days in a row, hoping to catch an *E. coli* spike during one of those days.
- Collect water samples and test them for optical brighteners instead of bacteria. Optical brighteners are man-made compounds found in detergents to make things appear brighter. A white shirt will fluoresce under a black light thanks to optical brighteners. Therefore, optical brighteners will also be present in wastewater.

What happens when we find the leak?

The owner of the sewer pipe in question will be required to fix it, plain and simple. Finding the cause is a challenging puzzle, but we are not far off from a healthier Loantaka Brook.

GSWA has had many partners in this investigation. Thank you to those mentioned above for their continuing efforts to solve this problem. Others who have been incredibly helpful in this endeavor include Jim Slate (Morris Township Engineer), Anthony DeVizio (Acting Director of Public Works, Morristown), Bob Schuster (Section Chief, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, NJDEP), and Dean Bryson (Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring, NJDEP). 

Watershed Watch— Environmental Hot Spots

by Sally Rubin, GSWA Executive Director

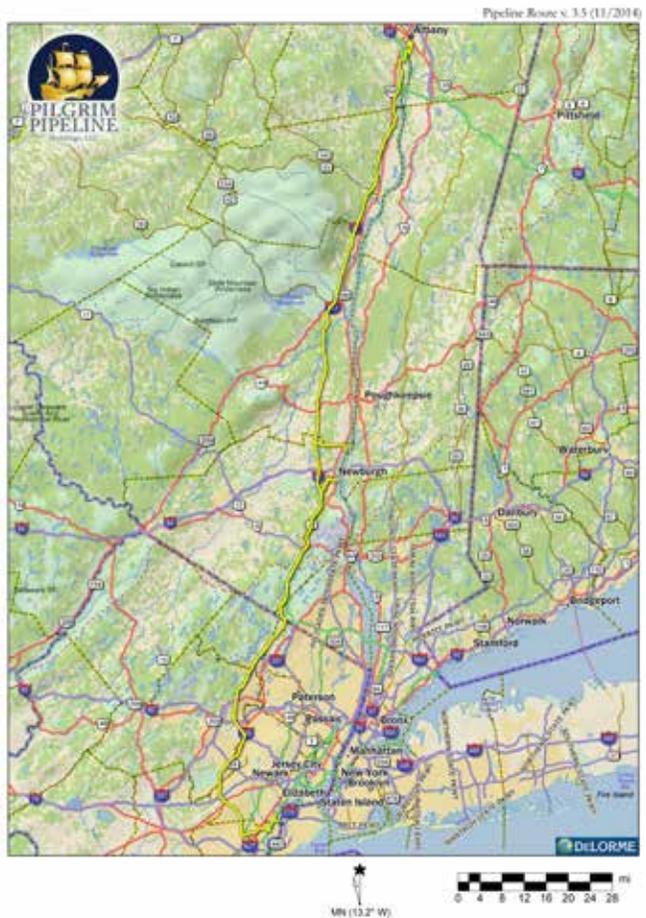
The environmental hot spots described below outline some of the Great Swamp Watershed Association’s (GSWA) advocacy activities throughout the Great Swamp Watershed region over recent months. Where appropriate, we continue to closely monitor each situation.

Pilgrim Pipeline

GSWA has continued to monitor the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline, a 178-mile pipeline from Albany, NY to Linden, NJ. The pipeline would consist of two underground pipes: one bringing Bakken Shale crude oil to Linden and one bringing refined petroleum products, including fuels, back to Albany. Although no official application has been filed in New Jersey, on November 18, 2015, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC, filed for permits in New York.

While no official application for pipeline construction has been submitted to any New Jersey state agency, the pipeline infrastructure is purported to cross the Passaic River at three different locations and

pass through at least 30 towns in several NJ counties. NJ’s legislature and more than 30 individual towns have passed resolutions opposing the project; however, these resolutions are non-binding. The pipeline was originally intended to follow PSE&G’s



Proposed pipeline route, credit Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings

existing right-of-way but the utility recently announced that this will not be permitted.

Since federal and state agencies do not regulate the route of oil pipelines, affected municipalities are now banding together to explore other legal options to prevent the pipeline. Local and regional organizations, such as the Chatham Citizens Opposing the Pipeline and the Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline, have been active in supporting the municipalities.

The Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline (CAPP), has been hosting regular events and maintains a website—www.stoppilgrimpipeline.com—to keep citizens and interested parties informed. They recently hosted a Landowner Rights Workshop, to help residents understand their rights if Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC, approached them regarding a pipeline right of way (ROW) on their property.

The pipeline could pass through and along many environmentally sensitive areas in New Jersey, including both the Highlands and the Great Swamp. An underground leak would not only affect the wildlife in these areas, but it would also pollute groundwater and drinking water supplies as well. Creating permanent underground infrastructure for oil transportation only elongates the regions reliance upon it—if in 50 or 100 years, our dependence on oil has waned, will these pipes still be present underground, unmaintained and seeping residual pollutants into our water supplies?

GSWA will keep abreast of the situation and prepare for when Pilgrim Pipeline files for permits in New Jersey and reveals their intended route. 🌲

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 GreatSwamp.org or send an e-mail with your name and address (so we can identify you in our member database) to kmartin@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.

Outdoor Programs

Do you want to explore the Great Swamp region? Then join the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) for one of our outdoor programs this spring. These programs are fun, informative, and accessible for people of all ages and skill levels (unless otherwise noted). We'll see you outside!

Spring Begins Hike Sunday, March 20, 10–11:30 a.m.

Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, Great Swamp NWR, 32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township, NJ

Join us on the first day of spring to look for signs of renewing life on this morning hike. Skunk cabbages will be peaking through the snow, new buds will be forming on trees, and spring migrants will be returning from their winter destinations. These signs of spring will be sure to brighten your day. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500 x22.

Natural History Hike Saturday, April 2, 10–11:30 a.m.

Morristown NHP, Jockey Hollow Visitor Center, approximately 600 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown, NJ

Not only will you learn to identify that Tulip Poplar in front of you with its unique seed cones, flowers, and leaves, but you'll also learn that because of its tendency to have an incredibly straight trunk, this tree was a favorite among Native Americans and earlier settlers for building. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500 x22.

Spring Peeper Hike Friday, April 15, 6–8 p.m.

GSWA Conservation Management Area, 1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Township, NJ

With temperatures rising, the forest floor will be hopping with new life as frogs and other amphibians crowd into shallow puddles of water to breed and lay their eggs. These puddles—better known as vernal pools—provide a perfect opportunity to learn more about Mother Nature here in New Jersey. Discover the differences between a spring peeper, a chorus frog, and a wood frog. Find out how far an endangered spotted salamander will walk to find a mating pool. And, learn how much everything we have come to appreciate about the springtime depends on a few unassuming puddles of water on the forest floor. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500 x22.

Migration Walk Saturday, May 7, 9–11 a.m.

Primrose Farm, appx. 15 Brook Drive South, Harding Township, NJ

The forests and fields are bursting with color during the first few weeks of May. Woodland wildflowers such as wild ginger, May apple, and Virginia blue bells are making their first appearances. Migratory birds are returning and especially active as they search for mates and begin to build their nests. Flashes of yellow from warblers, red from tanagers, and blue from buntings will delight your senses during this colorful spring stroll. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500 x22.

Test Your Well Water With GSWA

by Kelly Martin, Director of Communications and Marketing

GSWA is continuing our discounted-rate well water testing program for area residents this March. The test measures several water quality parameters, including total coliform + *E.coli*, nitrates, manganese, iron, arsenic, and lead. Anyone with a private well who is interested in taking advantage of this well testing program may pick up a kit from the Harding Township Kemmerer Library during business hours between March 1 and March 28. All participants will be required to make a \$10 deposit when they pick up their self-guided water sampling kit. The supplied kit must be

used to sample well water at home on the morning of Tuesday, March 29. All samples must be returned to the Kemmerer Library between 8 a.m. and noon the same day. (Note: Water samples that do not follow specific timetable requirements may not return reliable test results.) The cost for the basic, multi-parameter test is \$125 (this test would normally cost over \$300). Test add-ons may be purchased for an additional charge. Please call for details. This test cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of a real estate transaction. 🏡



Common Yellowthroat, Credit A. Kaufman

Important Information About Events

Please register as requested for each program listed here (*see descriptions*). Unless otherwise noted, current GSWA members participate free of charge. Non-members are asked to make a voluntary donation of \$10/adult and \$5/child (6 to 17 years), or \$35/family (includes four or more). There is no suggested donation for children five or under.

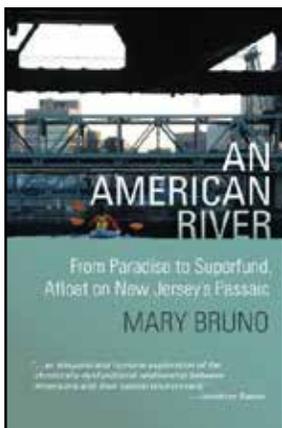
Please dress for the weather when attending an outdoor program. Conditions may be wet, muddy, hot, or cold.

Event dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Provide your email address or phone number at registration and GSWA will make every effort to inform you about scheduling changes. Updated scheduling information will also be made available via our *Event Information Hotline* at (973) 538-3500 x22. 🏡

Author Mary Bruno Talks about her Adventures on the Passaic River

by Dan Ross, Education Associate

Interested in learning more about the fascinating Passaic River? Then you won't want to miss author Mary Bruno when she comes to our area for a series of talks and selected readings from her novel *An American River: From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey's Passaic River*. Join Mary as she tells her story about her adventure kayaking along the Passaic River from its headwaters in Mendham all the way



to where it empties out in the Newark Bay. Part natural history, combined with an introspective look into her personal past, Mary's riveting memoir invites readers to lose themselves in the Passaic's storied and troubled past.

Anyone interested in learning about Mary's experiences as well as some of the challenges that the Passaic

River faces can come to her series of talks which will run the first week of March. All of the talks are open to the public and sure to be an exciting experience you won't want to miss!

About Mary Bruno

Mary Bruno is an American writer and editor. She earned her master's degree in aquatic ecology and researched stream systems in South Carolina for several years before shifting into the world of journalism. She worked as a staff writer, contributing editor or editorial director for a variety of print and online publications, including *Newsweek* and *New York Woman* magazines, ABCNEWS.com and *Seattle Weekly*. Her essays and fiction have appeared in the collections *A Road of Her Own: Women's Journeys in the West* (2002) and *Green Time* (2003). Bruno grew up in the Passaic River Watershed in North Arlington, New Jersey. She now lives on Vashon Island in Washington State.

Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m.

Washington's Headquarters Museum and Ford Mansion; GPS Address: 30 Washington Place, Morristown NJ 07960

While you are there, check out the mansion where George Washington and members of his army called home during the winter of 1779-1780. The house, which was donated to the National Park service in 1933, is furnished to appear exactly as it would have during the Revolutionary War! While there, tour the museum as well, which doubles as a research library, the park collections and administrative offices and is home to a number of exhibits showing furniture, weapons, documents and other objects from the 18th century.

(more programs on opposite page)

Build Your Own Rain barrel Tuesday, March 15, 6–8 p.m.

*GSWA Headquarters, 568 Tempe Wick Road,
Morristown, NJ*

GSWA and Green Mojo Eco Consulting will help you build your very own water-saving, storm water reducing, rain barrel. Using a recycled, food-grade barrel and a spigot adapter kit, we will walk you through the simple construction process. Each registered participant will leave the workshop with their very own handcrafted rain barrel that is ready to be hooked up to a household downspout. Cost: \$80. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org, or call (973) 538-3500 x22.



GSWA members show off their new rain barrel after last year's program

New Jersey's Aging Water Infrastructure Tuesday, May 17, 8–9:30 a.m.

*GSWA Headquarters, 568 Tempe Wick Road,
Morristown, NJ*

Water supply, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure have not received adequate investment for decades in most parts of the state. Rutgers University Professor Dr. Dan Van Abs will discuss the coming collision between the public interest in sound water infrastructure and the public interest in low costs. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org, or call (973) 538-3500 x22. 🌲

Mary Bruno *(continued from opposite page)*

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m.

*Mendham Township Library
2 West Main St., Brookside, NJ 07926*

The community-based library hosts special programs for all ages and is always looking for volunteers looking to become more involved with the library. If you haven't been there before, they are located in the Brookside section of Mendham Township on the lower level of the municipal building, at the corner of Cherry Lane and West Main Street.

Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m.

*Lambert Castle Library and Museum
3 Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503*

The Museum, which is open to the public for self guided tours, was once home to Catholina Lambert, one of the 19th century's leading silk textile manufacturers. The rooms of the museum display some of her possessions as well as other historical items from the Passaic County Historical Society's collections. 🌲

Great Swamp Watershed Association's Fifth Annual Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt

What: 5th Annual Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt

When: Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Check-in and wrap-up picnic at Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township, NJ

Calling all would-be explorers, adventurers, and buccaneers! **The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt** is back for another year of outdoor fun!

Do you think you know a thing or two about New Jersey's Great Swamp? Then it's time to test your powers of navigation and observation to find out.

Set Sail!

Begin the Hunt just after **10 a.m.** by checking in at the Great Swamp Watershed Association's (GSWA) *Home Base* under the pavilion at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge's Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. (The Visitor Center is located just inside the Lee's Hill Road park entrance at 32 Pleasant Plains Road in Harding Township, NJ.)

We will provide you with a route to travel, questions to answer, and a list of treasures to find throughout the Great Swamp Watershed region. It's your job to navigate to each treasure site, answer the questions and riddles leading to your booty, and return to *Home Base* with all your spoils.

Everyone is encouraged to participate, especially family groups and larger teams.



Challenge the Pirate King!

Remember to hurry back to *Home Base* at 32 Pleasant Plains Road by **3 p.m.** because your day of pilfering booty has earned you a chance to win some special prizes at the *Pirate King's Tricky Tray!*

Steve Howard helps participants find where they are in the watershed.



Grub & Grog

After you bid on your favorite prizes, join GSWA for a free cookout under the pavilion. Don't forget to bring your barbecue enthusiasm, because the more who participate, the more fun you will have! We

love it when our guests help out with the meal, so please feel free to bring along a covered side dish and serving utensils. (You can share your dish or keep it for yourself.) We will supply the burgers, dogs, and basic soft drinks.

The Particulars

Cost: Please consider making a contribution in support of this event when you register. Suggested amounts: \$10/adult, \$5/child (6 to 17), no suggested donation amount for children 5 or under.

What to Bring: Weather conditions may be hot, cold, muddy, or wet, so please dress for the weather. Sturdy outdoor footwear is strongly recommended. Don't forget bug spray and sunscreen. Consider bringing some snacks along for the road, or visiting a local business if you want lunch. Water (in a reusable container) is recommended. Picnic side dishes, serving utensils, lawn chairs, and picnic cloths are most welcome. (This is a leave-no-trace event.)

Ability Level: The Scavenger Hunt is suitable for almost all ages and ability levels. (Strollers are not recommended at some sites.) Great distances (sometimes miles) separate scavenging sites, but most are easily reached by car (or bicycle if you are inclined). You are not required to visit all sites, and may proceed at your own pace along your own route. This is an outdoor event, so you may need to traverse boardwalks, uneven ground, pools of water, and mud.

Rescheduling & Cancellations: All events are subject to change or cancellation without notice; however, we will try to contact pre-registered participants via e-mail or telephone when problems arise.

For more details, please speak with a GSWA staff member at (973) 538-3500 or send an email message to events@GreatSwamp.org. 🌲

Great Swamp Watershed Association Annual Home & Garden Tour Fundraiser

Wednesday, June 1. Check-in between 10 a.m.—Noon

All tour homes close promptly at 3 p.m.

Beginning location will be announced closer to tour date.

Find inspiration for your spring planting and decorating while supporting GSWA on June 1 during our annual Home & Garden Tour. The tour will be a celebration of the charming historic homes, enchanting gardens, and elegant estates that inhabit the Great Swamp region.

**Purchase your tour admission—
In advance for the discounted rate of
\$50 per person**

To register or for more information,
please call GSWA at (973) 538-3500
or visit *GreatSwamp.org*.

-OR-

**At the door for the full rate of
\$60 per person**



Beginning location will be announced closer to tour date. To register in advance, or for more information, please visit *GreatSwamp.org* or call GSWA at (973) 538-3500 x22.

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 *GreatSwamp.org* for more information.

Thanking Our Grantors

by Rick Porter, Director of Institutional Relations

The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) is pleased to share the news that we have been very successful this fiscal year in securing funding for our programs and activities from grant making organizations, both those with whom we have had a relationship for several years, and five first-time grantors.

Between July 1st and February 4th, we have been awarded grants totaling \$133,600. Unrestricted operating support grants were received in the amounts of \$20,000 from the F.M. Kirby Foundation, and \$15,000 from the Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation, a new relationship. Restricted grant awards totaling \$98,600, which fund GSWA's specific programs and activities, were awarded by a large group of grantors.

In support of our overall environmental education programs and outreach activities, we received grants from three new funders: \$5,000 each from the FirstEnergy Foundation and the Lowell Johnson Foundation, and \$2,000 from the Lillian Schenck Foundation. We are also very grateful to the following grantors whose ongoing support of our education programs make it possible for GSWA to continuously expand and enhance these activities: PSEG Foundation \$15,000, Tyler Foundation \$15,000, Investor's Bank Foundation \$11,000, Watershed Institute \$10,000, Bayer Corporation \$7,500, Jane and Tad Shepard Family Foundation \$7,000, and the Provident Bank Foundation \$2,500.

New Jersey American Water Company, also a new grantor in 2015, provided funding

of \$9,100 for the purchase of a new three dimensional Passaic River watershed model. The large, highly detailed model, which depicts the Passaic River from source to sea, will greatly enhance our in-school and public presentations and will give children and adults alike a heightened sense of awareness of the upstream-downstream connections of the Passaic Watershed.

The Leavens Foundation very generously supported a third year of operating costs for the Great Swamp Passaic Municipal Alliance with a grant award of \$10,000. The Alliance, formed by GSWA in 2014, educates key local and regional policy makers on environmental issues and other major concerns, and works to unite our communities to share best practices.

We extend an important Thank You to each of these organizations for their support and belief in our important work to improve the water quality in our region. 🌱

Interested in volunteering?

If you are interested in getting actively involved in efforts to protect and preserve the watershed, GSWA has a number of volunteer opportunities (see GreatSwamp.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer-opportunities/).

Please send an email to volunteer@GreatSwamp.org if you would like to volunteer!

Great Swamp Watershed Association 2015 Annual Gala

by Kelly Martin, Director of Communications and Marketing

A champion of conservation, Harding Township Mayor Nicolas Platt richly deserved to be honored at the Great Swamp Watershed Association's 2015 Gala held at the Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park on October 21, 2015. Mayor Platt has worked on many environmental projects in the region, including the recent preservation of Giralda Farms in Chatham Township. When GSWA's Executive Director, Sally Rubin, called Mayor Platt to ask if he would be the gala honoree, his response was, "You can't honor me, I still have so much work to do!"

Gathering to honor Nic were over 400 friends of GSWA, who enjoyed a cocktail reception, a spectacular silent auction, and



Executive Director Sally Rubin and Gala Honoree Mayor Nicolas Platt share a moment of celebration.



Standing ovation for gala honoree Mayor Nicolas Platt. Credit C. Mezzacappa

Guests included, from left, Chris Hepburn of Hardwick and formerly of Madison, Lucy Shurtleff of Harding Township, Marshall McLean of Bernardsville, Great Swamp Watershed Association Board Chair Michael Dee of Bernardsville, honoree and Harding Township Mayor Nicolas Platt, and State Senator and former governor, Richard Codey, D-Morris. Credit: NJ HILLS



a brief preview of a new documentary film that, when released, will tell the story of the creation of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The 2015 Gala broke records for both attendance and revenue, which will help underwrite GSWA's many environmental and educational programs. We are so grate-

ful to Mayor Platt for all his dedication to protect the environment and his help to make our event the best ever. We are also pleased to announce that Mayor Platt has joined the GSWA Board of Trustees.

Our next gala is in October 2016. You won't want to miss it! 🌲



New Jersey Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick introduced Gala Honoree Mayor Nicolas Platt. Credit C. Mezzacappa

GSWA Welcomes New Education Associate, Dan Ross!

GSWA is proud to announce it has hired a new part-time educator to help plan events, provide in-school education programs, and lead hikes. Dan became interested in the environment and the outdoors while in the boy scouts, and spent a lot of time hiking and exploring nature.



Later, that passion led him to pursue a degree in the environmental field. After receiving his B.S. in Environmental Policy Institutions and Behavior from Rutgers University, he went on to become a Watershed Ambassador for the NJDEP serving the Musconetcong River Watershed. While there, he focused on environmental education and outreach. Following an aquatic invasive species removal project in Lake Musconetcong in which he partnered with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, he accepted a position working with the Cooperative Extension of Morris and Somerset Counties. With his extensive knowledge of native plants and wildlife and background in education, Dan is a great addition to the GSWA team. Welcome, Dan! 🌲

Like GSWA
and join the cause on

facebook

Dan Ross explains why beech trees hold their leaves in winter. Credit: S. Kessel.

My back is sore from shoveling out after the big Jonas snowstorm and I want to tell you with a grin, that I am done shoveling for the rest of the year. The storm confirmed what the climate experts have already said; there is a link between the high snowfall amounts and exceptionally warm sea surface temperatures off the east coast of the United States. Because of the increased water temperatures, storms are anticipated to increase in severity which impacts us all physically, financially, and environmentally. This brings me to my real point, GSWA depends on your support to help us protect the environment. Our education and outreach programs are timely and important, educating children and adults about water quality, ecosystems, ocean surge and interdependence in nature. Our efforts to protect drinking water for one million people, to protect a myriad of native species and habitats for animals, and our advocacy for the environment will ultimately help mitigate climate change.

Since joining GSWA six months ago, we have had many proud accomplishments. The

annual gala was a great success. We are happy to report that various members have increased their donations and volunteer time, and at the same time, corporations and foundations have helped to further our endeavors. Thank you so much for your support and faith in GSWA. It means a lot to us. We are working to expand our mission and increase our outreach efforts to reach more individuals and communities to ensure a healthy environment from source to sea, but we still require more resources to do so. Please consider increasing your financial support and making a difference now and for future generations.

Everyone from the Pope to Bono has called upon us to forge a sustainable future. As Edward Everett Hale said “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do....I will do.”

Climate change is here. It impacts us significantly, both fiscally and physically. We must all do our utmost to assure a livable planet for the future. Time is of the essence. Please help us care for our waters and our land from source to sea.

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 kmartin@GreatSwamp.org so you don't miss out on our new monthly e-newsletters.

With much gratitude,
Nicole Altneu
Director of Development
naltneu@greatswamp.org
973-538-3500, ext 18. 🌿

Board Happenings

by Sally Rubin, Executive Director

A great big THANKYOU to **Michael Dee** for completing his two-year term as Chairman of the Board. Michael has been invaluable in helping Great Swamp Watershed Association move forward. Under his stewardship, we have begun the process of becoming an accredited land trust and are considering how best to expand our mission to continue to protect our waters and our land. Fortunately for us, Michael has not left the board and continues to support and encourage the organization.

Great Swamp Watershed Association is so fortunate to have added several new members to our board of trustees recently.

Matthew Krauser joined our board in 2015. Matt resides in Morristown and is a lifelong resident of the area. He is the Senior Managing Director/Principal at Integra Realty Resources-Northern New Jersey/New York. Matt is actively engaged in a wide range of commercial, industrial, and vacant land assignments. He specializes in open space/land preservation as well as tax appeal, condemnation, and litigation oriented appraisals. Matt earned his Bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and a Master of Science, Real Estate Development/Investment from New York University. Not only has Matt recently joined our board, but he is the newly elected Chairman of the Board for 2016. Matt has wholeheartedly



embraced the organization and we are off and running with a new leader at the helm.

Guy Pischerchia, a resident of Long Hill has joined the board. Guy received both his bachelor's degree and MBA from Seton Hall University. He is an international banking professional with extensive trading and management experience. He has served on the Long Hill Township Committee since 2010 and was the Mayor in 2013 and 2014. Guy is the Township Committee Director of Government Relations. He served on the Long Hill Board of Adjustment and currently serves on the Planning Board. He is on the Executive Committee for Morris County League of Municipalities. He is an active participant in the Great Swamp Municipal Alliance.



Nicolas W. Platt has also joined our board. Nic has been a resident of our region his entire life and his roots go deeper than that. His family's ties to the area date back to the 1800s, as well as their commitment to conservation. Nic and his family have developed the 200 acre estate in Harding, known as Hartley Farms, into a truly unique community. Nic has also been instrumental in preserving several large parcels of land



in our watershed. He is a graduate of Skidmore College and received a Masters in Economics from Columbia University. He has over thirty years of experience and expertise in the securities industry as well as public relations and business consulting. Nic has served on the Harding Township Committee since 2009 and has been the Mayor since 2014. He sits on several public boards and is active in local, county and state politics. He is also an active participant in the Great Swamp Municipal Alliance. Nic has become a well known speaker on a large range of topics, most recently on the epic battle describing the New York Port Authority's plans to build the world's largest airport in the heart of the Great Swamp. His presentation has raised new awareness of a near fatal run-in with a Port Authority that had never lost a fight and which highlights the importance of grassroots organizations like ours.

Debra Apruzzese has returned to our board of trustees. Debra served six years as a trustee and then served on our advisory council. We are very happy to have her back on the board. Deb resides in Harding. She is a graduate of Bucknell University.

Deb spent her career consulting on strategic planning and development and business optimization. She was the Senior Vice President for Strategic Development and

M&A at Lonza Group, Microbial Control Business. Currently, Deb is an Adjunct Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Vito (Tony) Pinto has also joined our board. Tony is an attorney and shareholder at Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper. Tony counsels clients with respect to regulatory and compliance issues and litigates in state and federal courts, as well as real estate and environmental issues. Tony received his Bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall and his law degree from George Washington University Law School.



Teresa Lane, a resident of Bernards Township, joined our board in 2015. Teresa is a Senior Philanthropy Officer at The Nature Conservancy, whose mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In this role she is responsible for cultivating and stewarding meaningful relationships between donors and The Nature Conservancy toward the realization of transformational gifts. Teresa is a graduate of Princeton University. 🌲



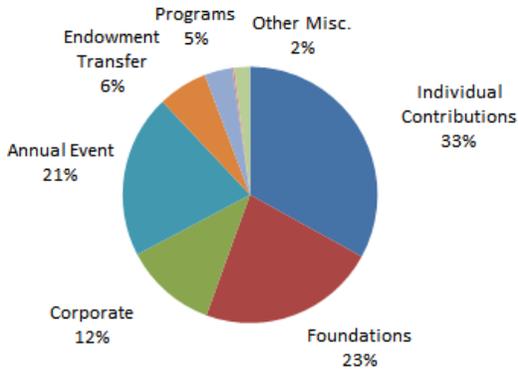
GSWA is blogging at
<http://GreatSwamp.org/blog>

Financial Report: Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

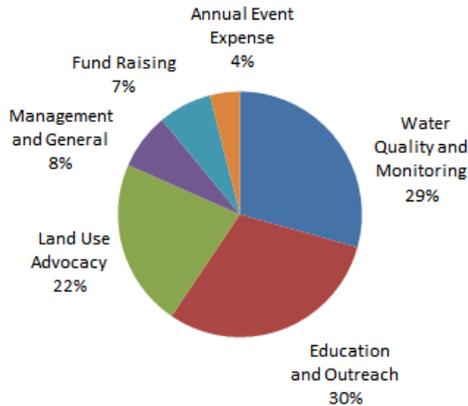
by Sue Levine, Director of Finance & Human Resources

	2015
INCOME	
Individual Contributions	\$ 209,312
Foundation Support	143,050
Corporate - see Note 1	74,405
Grants	-
Annual Event (Gross)	130,866
Endowment transfer in (4% draw)	39,778
Programs	22,535
Miscellaneous & Interest Income	1,655
Total from Primary Operations	621,601
Government Grants - 319	3,260
Government Grants - Other Pass Through	3,290
4% Draw on Dreesen (f)	6,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 634,151
EXPENSES	
Programs:	
Water Quality and Monitoring	\$ 184,984
Education and Outreach	190,224
Land Use Advocacy	139,277
Total Program Expense	514,485
Management and General	46,641
Fund Raising	44,630
Annual Event Expense	25,029
Total from Primary Operations	630,785
Government Grants / Pass Through Grants	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 630,785
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - see Note 2,3 (a)	\$ 3,366
ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY	
Market Value 6/30/14	\$ 994,453
Contributions (b)	0
Transfer to Operating income (4%) (c)	(39,778)
Transfer from Operating income (c)	0
Investment Income & Interest Earned (d)	20,342
Gain/Loss on Investments (e)	15,593
Net change - see Note 3	(3,843)
Market Value 6/30/15	\$ 990,610

INCOME



EXPENSES



Note 1: Income from the Corporate category excludes matching gifts \$2,517. These funds are included in Individual Contributions.

Note 2: The surplus is after depreciation of \$512. In addition, it includes the endowment transfer related activity for 2014-2015 4% annual transfer of \$39,778 plus 4% draw on Dreesen Bequest \$6,000.

Note 3: To tie to the audited financial statement's "change in net asset" line, you need to add (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) - (f) above. The audited financials reflect a loss of (\$6,477).



Great Swamp Watershed Association

Post Office Box 300
New Vernon, NJ 07976
(973) 538-3500
www.GreatSwamp.org

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #38
Chester, NJ



*Printed on recycled paper.
Please recycle again.*