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ACROSS the WATERSHED

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Winter 2002

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 22 No. 1

anjec honors Association

At the recent Environmental Congress held by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), Great Swamp Watershed Association was selected to receive a 2001 New Jersey Environmental Achievement Award for their publication *Saving Streamways*. Karen Patterson, GIS Analyst and Julia Somers, Executive Director of the Watershed Association were at the Environmental Congress to receive the award.

Environmental Achievement Award

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions recognizes
the
Great Swamp Watershed Association
for
outstanding accomplishment in local environmental protection.

Landowner's Guide to Saving Streamways

October 27, 2001

anjec
association of new jersey
environmental commissions

Julia Somers
Executive Director
Great Swamp Watershed Association

Great Swamp Watershed Association

The Watershed Association's award-winning publication, *Saving Streamways*, offers local residents a variety of information on how to protect the waterways that nourish and sustain the Great Swamp. Published nearly a year ago, *Saving Streamways* is available free of charge. To obtain a copy, call the Great Swamp Watershed Association at 973-966-1900.

Have you renewed
your membership yet?
If you need another
form, call
973-966-1900.

20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER a "Roaring" Success



Honoree and founding trustee Helen Fenske with her son Karl at the Annual Dinner at the Westin Hotel.

The Annual Dinner had a new flavor this year and was, by any standard, a huge success. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of Great Swamp Watershed Association, the evenings' theme was "Roaring 20" and included dinner, dancing, honoring special guests, and a silent auction.

Honored special guests included the Honorable Richard Bagger, Joanne Casadeval, Bobby Defino of Integrated Communications Corp., John Donofrio and Martine Redman of Briarpatch, Inc., Sally Dudley, Abigail Fair, Helen Fenske, the Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Cheryl Good of Kings Super Markets, Inc., Michael Henderson, Penny Hinkle, William Koch, Sarah Dean Link, the Honorable Robert Martin, Bette Schultz of Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Jim Shissias of PSE&G, Recorder Community Newspapers, Nancy Miller-Rich of Schering Plough Corporation, and John Thonet of Thonet Associates. Each of the honored guests received a

beautiful original bowl created by glass artist Don Gonzalez.

Julia Somers, Executive Director of GSWA, introduced each recipient and David Budd, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of GSWA, presented the gifts. The Honorable Richard Bagger, Senator-elect, spoke on behalf of the honorees. He talked about the importance to the region of the Wildlife Refuge, the watershed's other public lands and the encompassing watershed. He mirrored the comments made by Julia Somers about the value of the contributions made by all the award recipients and their efforts to protect what makes the region special. Senator Bagger now represents four watershed municipalities in Trenton and said that we can call him "Senator Swamp".

Thanks to the generosity of members, corporate sponsors, and silent auction benefactors, GSWA not only celebrated its 20th anniversary in style, but raised much needed funds for its programs.

2002 BUSY SCHEDULE FOR GSWA

2002 is looking like it will be a busy year for the Watershed Association. Issues and projects we expect to pursue include:

- working to see more acres of land placed under conservation, particularly wetlands parcels;
- trying to persuade property owners to strengthen their stewardship role for streamside land, particularly on the Primrose Brook and Upper Passaic River;
- cooperating with partners to increase the contiguous open space permanently saved along Great Brook (e.g., our properties on Tiger Lily Lane in Harding and the Harding Land Trust's holdings next to ours;)
- working with watershed municipalities to support their open space acquisition efforts;
- sharing the many tools we have developed here at the Watershed Association on mitigating the impacts of stormwater (blue-green technologies);
- working with towns to improve environmental ordinances, particularly their municipal steep slopes, stormwater and tree protection ordinances;
- presenting to any interested town or group the conclusions of the municipal buildout analyses that we undertook for several watershed communities using our digital Geographic Information System;
- taking educational programs into more schools (in 2001 we reached more than 750 students in more than 19 schools;)
- conducting more Watershed Education for Teachers (Project WET) workshops;
- participating in and supporting the

- efforts of the Ten Towns Committee, Watershed Management Area #6 (a much larger, regional planning effort), the New Jersey Council of Watershed Associations, and statewide environmental stakeholders' meetings;
- continuing the work of our Stream Teams whose Watershed Association volunteers, in a collaborative project with the Ten Towns Committee, collect samples in all five watershed streams, and expanding our analysis of several years of data gained through that effort;
- advocating sound environmental planning in local development applications before all watershed municipal planning boards and boards of adjustment, including Mendham Township (anticipated Girl Scouts application to build a large recreational camp on restricted land next to Jockey Hollow National Historical Park);
- supporting regional efforts in the Washington Valley (Mendham and Morris Townships) and on the northern edge of the watershed (Florham Park and neighboring communities);
- cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, municipalities and other managers of watershed open space on particular projects they are pursuing.

And this is just the beginning! Your support for the projects we undertake has been essential to our past success. It would not be possible without you -- thank you very much indeed. We make a good team!



Across the Watershed is a quarterly publication of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. GSWA works to protect the ecological, historic, and cultural integrity of the Great Swamp and its watershed. The Association promotes the conservation and restoration of the watershed's natural resources and encourages land use that is compatible with these goals.

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WATERSHED ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW TRUSTEES

Two new trustees, Michael Dee and Ann Parsekian have been elected to three-year terms, according to David A. Budd, Chairman of the Board of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. The Watershed Association is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

“Michael Dee is a longtime resident of Bernardsville and his concern and interest in local environmental issues, combined with his diverse business background, make him a valuable trustee,” said Budd. Dee is a graduate of Yale University and is active in their Alumni Association. In addition to being a partner in a candy manufacturing business, he is working towards a Master’s Degree in Evolutionary History from Drew University. Dee is also an avid skier and ice hockey player.

Ann Parsekian has been an invaluable volunteer and member of our Local Issues committee. She’s been reporting on land use news in Bernards Township and Bernardsville for our newsletter and website. A 16-year resi-

dent of Basking Ridge, Ann recently completed a Certificate in Historic Preservation from Drew and is especially interested in the role of historic preservation in environmental preservation and open space acquisition. “Ann brings a new perspective to the board,” continued Budd. “Her interest and experience in local issues and historic preservation make her a welcome addition.”

Also re-elected for their second three-year terms were Robert Blanchard of Green Village, who is currently Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Development Committee. Nancy Conger, who lives in Millington, is a Certified Financial Planner and a member of the Development Committee. Julie Keenan is a resident of Summit and has been an active member of the Development Committee. Linda Wilson, also of Summit, is a Certified Financial Analyst and serves as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

SILENT AUCTION ROUSING SUCCESS

Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations to the silent auction:

- American Craft Gallery
- Atelier Country Saloon
- Marshall Bartlett
- Dr. Eileen Klok Bevan
- Michele and William Blanchard
- Robert Blanchard
- Briarpatch, Inc.
- Eric and Margo Brundage
- Derry Burn
- Cascata, The Spa, by Absolute Image
- Larry Chase
- The Chatham Club
- Christmas City Printing
- The Community Theater
- Claire Diab
- Eccoqui Restaurant
- Nancy and Charles Foster
- The Gap
- The Grand Cafe
- Dan and Pam Harding
- HBO
- Jesse Hermann and Julie Keenan
- Patricia Jennings
- J. Harris Jewelers
- Ned and Mindy Kirby
- Bill Leavens
- Madison Hotel
- Madison Area YMCA
- Mount Pleasant Animal Shelter
- On A Roll
- William and Joan Patterson
- Ricky Pennisi
- Jeff and Susie Pribor
- The Raptor Trust
- Ila Rasmussen
- John Sakowski
- Short Hills Hilton
- Tom and Gina Snell
- Frank and Dot Stillinger
- The Village Flower Shop
- David Womer
- Bill and Ellen Wraith



WINTER WATERSHED WALK

Just because it’s winter doesn’t mean that your hiking boots have to sit under the sofa and collect dust.

Michelle Burke, Watershed Ambassador, is hosting a Winter Wonderland Walk at Lewis Morris Park, on Sunday, February 17 at 11:30 a.m. The walk will start in the parking lot on Doe Meadow Road and follow the Green trail, which is 1.6 miles long. The walk is free, but preregistration is required, so please call Michelle at (973)966-1900 by Friday, February 15, 2002. For directions to the park, visit the Morris County Parks Commission website at www.parks.morris.nj.us/asp/parks/info.asp.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Tuesday, March 12, 2002 Great Swamp Watershed Association will host an evening about volunteer opportunities. According to Julia Somers, Executive Director of the Watershed Association, the program will take place from 7-9 p.m. at the Madison Public Library.

Somers also said, "there's an enormous range of volunteer opportunities at the Watershed Association including outdoor activities like monitoring water quality of local streams and working at our conservation area, which is a 23-acre wooded site in Harding Township and is used to promote ecological restoration and education. For those who prefer the great indoors, we need volunteers to assist the staff with demonstrations of our watershed model, writing grants proposals, and working in our office at 36 Main Street, Madison.

"We appreciate whatever time volunteers have to give us and hope that you will come meet us on March 12. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the staff and hear about the ways you can volunteer," continued Somers. "I'm looking forward to seeing you there."

If you can't make it on March 12, but would like information about volunteering, please call Jan Malay at 973.966.1900.

INSIDE 36 MAIN: STAFF NOTES

Executive Director **Julia Somers** has been actively involved on the Harding Open Space Committee. She's also submitted comments to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), at their request, for the new administration's transition team. She continues to be involved in the Exxon property rezoning by Florham Park and reports proudly that the Watershed Association was one of the founders of SEAMLESS.

Join us in welcoming **Cheryl Amatelli** to the staff at 36 Main Street. She joined GSWA in December and will be responsible for all accounting functions and reporting of the organization and will work closely with the finance committee. She will supervise the computer systems as well as do other administrative duties. Cheryl has 11 years experience as a Financial Analyst at Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. and is attending Fairleigh Dickenson University where she will receive her B.S. in Finance this spring. Recently married, Cheryl, her husband, and a variety of pets live in Green Brook.

Lisa Butera retired recently as GSWA's Finance Director. She was the organization's first employee and had been with GSWA for 12 years. She's looking forward to spending more time with her family and pursuing other interests, but we will all miss her.

Bonnie Gannon, Development Director, reports that our Annual Dinner was a huge success. She is grateful to all the volunteers that helped put it together as well as our corporate sponsors and silent auction donors for helping to make it financially viable. She continues to serve as president of Earth Share of New Jersey (formerly known as the Environmental Fund of NJ) and is a newly appointed member of the Harding Township Environmental Commission.

Jan Malay recently attended the Land Trust Rally in Baltimore. It was sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance and offered Jan the opportunity to attend seminars and workshops along with representatives from other environmental organizations.

The entire staff is indebted to **John Malay** for his dedication and help. He has spent considerable time in the office setting up email lists for Swamp Alerts, producing collateral material for our Annual Dinner, setting up the distribution and marketing of our new blue/green video "Doing Water Right," assisting Karen Patterson with GIS work, and providing significant technical support.

Karen Patterson, GIS Analyst and Project Director, will lead a Project WET (Watershed Education for Teachers) on March 20 at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. See article on page 10 or call (973)966-1900 for more information. Karen was recently appointed to serve on the Morristown Environmental Commission.

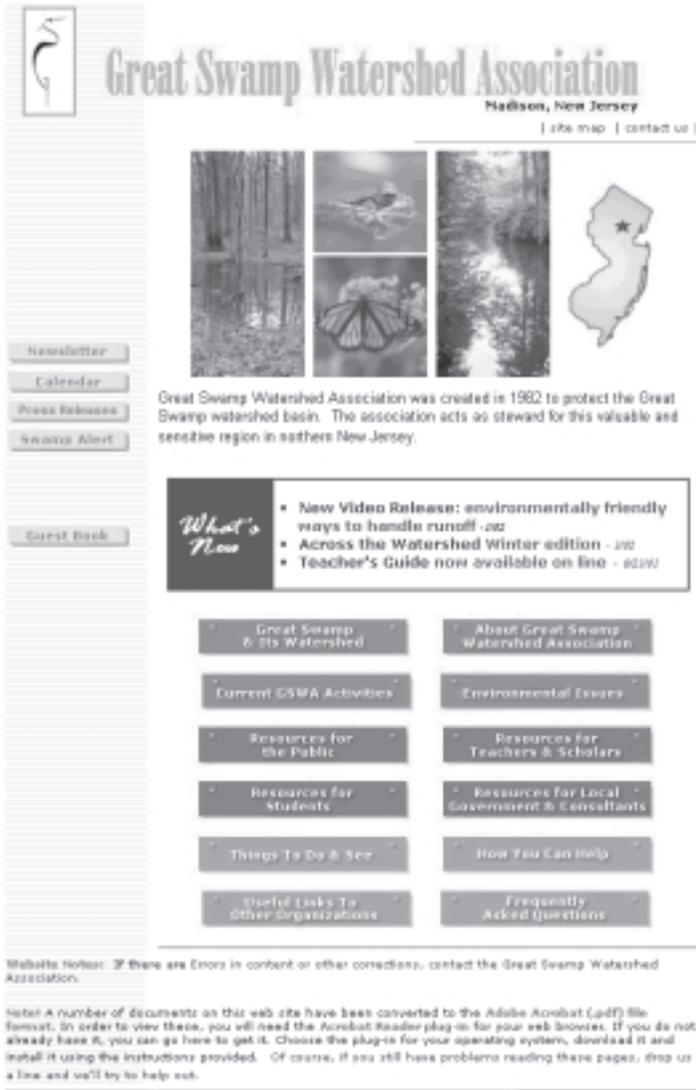
Hank Garie, Director of New Jersey's Office of GIS (Geographic Information Systems), recently requested a copy of the GIS map Karen created for the Watershed Association's *Saving Streamways* brochure. Mr. Garie sent the map to Jack Dangermond, president of ESRI, makers of the world's most popular GIS software, as an example of how a NJ non-profit organization is utilizing GIS. See article on page 10.



In May, volunteers from Newark Academy School spent the day working at the GSWA Conservation Area in Harding Township. Photo by John Malay

GREAT SWAMP WEBSITE TO BLOOM IN THE SPRING

by John Malay



CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.GREATSWAMP.ORG

In order to make your Internet visit to the Great Swamp even more interesting and fun, the website (www.greatswamp.org) will be debuting a new visual format and organization in the first quarter of 2002.

We will be adding more resources for students and teachers, more photos and descriptions of the Swamp, its natural features, plants and animals.

Another new feature is that the "Swamp Watch" page will be updated as new information becomes available

(www.greatswamp.org/swampwatch.html). GSWA will continue to use email to alert members who ask for updates and notices to be sent directly to them. Now, these "Swamp Alerts" will be archived on the Swamp Watch page for all to see.

Existing favorites such as the Town Reports page and the "Virtual Tour" of the GSWA Conservation Area will be retained. You will still be able to download digital versions of some of our publications, our newsletter and

press releases, as well as see previews of our latest video on blue-green technology. Current activities in the Watershed as well as local environmental issues will still be there for you to see.

The re-design is being implemented by volunteer Anna Nagy, in cooperation with members of the GSWA staff. You will not need to change any of your browser settings. If you have already "bookmarked" the website (and you should!) that address will still work.

Bernards Township

Challenges to Shade Tree Ordinances

Two Bernards tree ordinances are currently under assault. The owners of Millington Quarry Inc. (MQI) have filed suit against the township in hopes of invalidating the recently passed "Tree Bank Program" ordinance [a subsection of Chapter 21, Revised Land Use Ordinances]. The ordinance requires property owners to replace certain trees removed from a site or pay the township \$300 for each tree removed. The suit claims the ordinance creates an unreasonable burden on owners who want to develop wooded properties. Shortly after filing the suit, MQI filed with the township Planning Board a proposal to subdivide one of four tracts owned by the quarry.

The second tree ordinance under attack is the "Shade Tree Protection" ordinance [Chapter XVI of the Revised General Ordinances]. In December, an amendment to the ordinance was introduced which would further consolidate environmental oversight in the township under the Township Engineer by having the engineer replace the township construction official on the Tree Protection Committee. Citing property rights concerns, Committee Member Al Licata proposed tabling the amendment until January, at which time he intends to pursue elimination of the original ordinance.

Open Space Watch

As part of the its master plan review, the Bernards Township Planning Board recently examined two large parcels within the Great Swamp Watershed: The 258-acre Basking Ridge Country Club property, currently zoned for three-acre housing and, according to the township engineer, about 80 percent wetlands; and the 53-acre Ross farm next to the country club property, also zoned currently for three-acre housing. Somerset County has interest in acquiring the Ross property as open space. These two parcels are among 45 within the township that will be closely watched by the planners.

Editor's note: "Swamp Watch" covers important land-development issues in each of the ten towns of the watershed: Bernardsville, Bernards, Chatham Township, Harding, Long Hill, Madison, Mendham Borough and Township, Morris Township and Morristown. If you do not see your town included below, it's because we do not have someone to cover that town, not because there are no development issues occurring. If you are interested in covering your town for *Across the Watershed*, please phone Julia Somers at 973.966.1900. "Swamp Watch" is edited by Kathy Abbott.

Landmark Stream Protection Ordinance Passed

A stream buffer conservation ordinance was adopted by the Township Committee in November. The ordinance is based upon the model ordinance developed by the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Committee.

Because of property rights concerns expressed by several residents, however, the Committee made several changes to the model. One resident stated that the proposal is "appropriate in principle but it's not always fair when applied to homeowners like myself." The main concession was to allow within 25 feet of a stream accessory uses and structures such as driveways, patios, walkways, sheds, and game areas, including tree removal in conjunction with such uses or structures.

Deer Update

Bernards Township Committee voted to install Streiter roadside reflectors on a 1.1 mile section of Mt. Airy Road as a way to test their effectiveness in reducing deer-related motor vehicle accidents. Mt. Airy Road was selected because of its high incidence of deer-related accidents.

Several committee members expressed skepticism about effectiveness based upon intensive maintenance requirements resulting from snow plowing operations and grass and brush removal.

Township officials are also seeking to support a 10-year \$2 million Rutgers University program that would work toward a one-shot method of permanent sterilization for use in deer. This is a different program from the one-shot multiyear contraception project being developed by the Humane Society of the US and Zoo Montana which was suggested by the Bernards Citizens for Rational Deer Management, an anti-hunt group, as an alternative to using sharpshooters to cull the deer herd.

The multiyear contraceptive PZP, has been used only on a trial basis and is still a federally unapproved drug. The township committee has declined to authorize a pilot project for PZP, stating it has not been proven safe for use in deer which can be consumed by humans. Neither the Humane Society nor Zoo Montana support permanent sterilization. NJ State Division of Fish and Wildlife has issued a permit for Bernards Township's Community Based Deer Management Program. The hunt is scheduled to start before the end of the year and continue through the end of March 2002.

The township has contracted with Deer Management Systems, Inc. to provide state approved and licensed professional sharpshooters. In December township officials mailed information about the eleven public sites and three private sites to all residents, and there will be a hotline for daily updates during the program.

—Ann Parsekian

Chatham Township

Watershed Association Appeals Planning Board Decision

On December 3rd, the Great Swamp Watershed Association filed a complaint with the state Superior Court in Morristown against Sterling Properties and the Chatham Township Planning Board. Sterling plans to build 56 townhouses on a 30-acre wooded parcel that is an aquifer recharge zone near the corner of Shunpike and Green Village Road. The appeal raises procedural as well as substantive objections to the Planning Board's granting of a "C" variance on the steep slopes protection ordinance.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL "HOT SPOTS"

The Watershed Association contests a bifurcation of the site plan approval process. The Planning Board on October 1st, in accordance with Sterling's request, agreed to vote separately on a steep slopes variance before voting on the entire site plan. Then on October 15th, the Planning Board voted in favor of the steep slopes variance while leaving site plan approval for a later date. The Watershed Association contends that the Municipal Land Use Law of New Jersey allows splitting an application into two parts only for the purpose of granting "D" variances, and only for zoning boards of adjustment, not for planning boards.

The Watershed Association's goal for this 30-acre site is to minimize the townhouse complex's damage to the public drinking water aquifer beneath and to the flood-containing qualities of the vegetation and terrain. The Association also seeks to preserve as much of the natural beauty of the site.

The steep slopes variance makes stormwater runoff more difficult to control. There is a pond on the property which drains into the Great Swamp, and any additional runoff caused by the construction would endanger the "species and resources" in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, says the complaint. Steep slopes, once cleared of vegetation, cause much faster rates of stormwater flow and erosion. The township's ordinance protects steep slopes of 15% grade or greater. The Sterling land has slopes of 20-25% on two sides of the property.

In December 2000, planner John Thonet completed a report, on behalf of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, showing that Sterling could rearrange the placement of townhouses to leave the steep slopes in tact and still fit in 56 units. Sterling and the Planning Board received written copies of the Thonet report, but have so far chosen not to adopt the more environmentally benign Thonet plan. Mr. Thonet formally presented his alternative site plan to the Planning Board in the spring of 2001.

Approval of the final site plan will depend heavily on stormwater issues. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection must approve Sterling's pro-

visions for stream encroachment and safety of the dam that contains the pond on the property. Also, the Township Stormwater Consultant, Michael Bennett, must certify that there will be no net increase in stormwater runoff from the developed site as compared to its original, natural state.

Oak Knoll Athletic Fields before Planning Board

Oak Knoll School of Summit had its first hearing this October before the Planning Board on its proposal to build athletic fields on 13.4 acres off Green Village Road near Shunpike Road. The School received a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permit to fill wetlands, after the DEP, in July, retracted a notice of violation on the crushing of a pipe in a culvert on the property through which water flowed from a wetlands to a feeder stream of the Great Swamp.

With evidence of the culvert buried, the DEP contended that the wetland was isolated, and issued a permit to fill the isolated wetlands. Permits to fill wetlands connected to streams are much harder to obtain than those for isolated wetlands. The Chatham Township Environmental Commission wrote a letter to the DEP in September, requesting reasons for the retraction of the notice of violation. The DEP has not yet responded to the letter.

The main issue still to be decided is compliance with the town's no net increase in storm water runoff ordinance. Meeting the township's stormwater management requirements will be difficult because the property, when developed, will lose much of its natural ability to store and absorb stormwater. First, the wetlands will no longer be there to hold water. Second, a large part of the heavy vegetation on about 4 acres of the site will be cleared, and with it, the land's ability to soak up water through tree and plant roots.

The school, based in Summit, has only one non-regulation field on its 7-acre campus, and says it needs the space for its field hockey, soccer, lacrosse and softball teams. —*Kathy Abbott*

Harding Township

Morris Animal Inn

On October 31 the Harding Township Committee heard an appeal of the Harding Board of Adjustment's decision to approve a proposed expansion which would double the size of the Morris Animal Inn (MAI). The property has some exceptional value wetlands and is crossed by a headwater of Great Brook. The appeal was filed by Sand Spring Road neighbors. On November 2 the Committee deliberated at length before affirming the Board of Adjustment's decision.

An appeal filed with NJDEP by GSWA remains pending over the Department's permitting MAI to rely, for the purpose of this application, on an outdated (and lower) wetlands classification on its property. If the Department requires MAI to observe the updated exceptional value classifications for onsite wetlands, the proposed addition will be much smaller.

Wildlife Preserves, Inc.

Harding Township is working to acquire a 62-acre piece of land on Long Hill Road from its owner, Wildlife Preserves, Inc. (WPI). This site is immediately adjacent to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which surrounds it on two sides. Woodmont Builders, LLC had a contract with WPI to purchase the property and build houses on it; Woodmont had been before the Board of Adjustment seeking a use variance; current zoning is Farmland, Recreation and Conservation and would not permit large homes.

Darcy School

The Darcy School has withdrawn its application to the Board of Adjustment seeking variances to build a new K-8 school on 24 acres on Sand Spring Road presently known as Hilltop Stables. In taking this action, the School has reserved the right to resurrect it in the future. Before withdrawing, Darcy representatives had

also looked at another site in town located on the corner of James Street and Harter Road, but did not pursue it.—*Julia Somers*

Madison

Many Address Development of Former Exxon Site

Madison Matters is collaborating with SEAMLESS and other citizens groups, including The Great Swamp Watershed Association, to understand and educate citizens about the proposed development of the former Exxon site.

Though the site is not located directly within the Great Swamp Watershed, its potential large-scale development—including up to 2.1 million square feet of office space and a possible new connector road to Route 24—will have definite environmental impacts to the region, including the watershed.

This fall the groups successfully coordinated with town officials from Madison, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township to gain Florham Park's agreement to a 60-day delay in a vote on Florham Park Ordinance 06-01, a Planned Office Development Ordinance that will guide development of the property.

The 60 days will allow for a review of the ordinance and for clarification of its provisions, as well as for revisions that may improve it. The goal is to mitigate the potential negative impacts of the development, including increased traffic and transportation congestion, loss of open space, environmental damage to wetlands, water quality and quantity, as well as public safety, and other concerns.

For more information, visit www.rosenet.org/seamless.

Planning Board Decisions Leave Madisonians Scratching Their Heads

In December, Madison's Planning Board voted twice within a week on fundamentally similar sub-division applications, but, with apparent inconsistency, decided to approve one application and deny the other.

Watershed members had closely watched the hearings for subdivisions of two large residential properties, one for Block 4402 Lots 4 and 35 (Midwood Terrace and Green Avenue), and one for Block

4903, Lot 10 (Dellwood Pkwy South). Both are within the watershed, both are heavily wooded with steep slopes, both would require significant re-grading, both involve prime aquifer recharge soils, and both involve downhill neighbors who testified about existing water problems. Conflicting testimony from engineers regarding the efficacy of proposed stormwater management techniques and systems were also common to both. Additionally, both hearings involved significant testimony from professionals and residents in opposition to the applications. Residents familiar with both applications were perplexed about how the Board could reach such different conclusions, especially given that the Board had publicly expressed similar concerns and doubts about both plans.—*Judy Kroll*

Morris Township

Southgate IV

An application to build a 150,000 square foot commercial office building, a separate two-story parking deck and a 15,000 square foot child care center on Southgate Parkway is before the Township Planning Board. The property's location is across the Parkway from the existing office complex with Great Brook and I-287 at its back; residential neighborhoods lie along one side and at one end. There are extensive wetlands and floodplain on site, in addition to the Brook. Multiple variances are needed from the Planning Board if the project is to be approved. GSWA is active on this application and is working with a neighborhood group of opponents.—*Julia Somers*

Long Hill Township

Disputed Subdivision Would Increase Stormwater Volume

The Long Hill Township planning board continues a hearing on an in-fill proposal on Meyersville Road. The applicant lives in a modest house on a 3-acre parcel zoned for 1 acre and wants to subdivide and build a "McMansion" on the rear of the property. The board already turned down a flag lot plan last year and the applicant sued. Although still in court, the applicant has returned with a subdivision plan that replaces the driveway with a 250-

ft formal roadway (20-ft wide plus cul-de-sac) and an additional 150-ft meandering driveway to an external garage. This is all to serve one house and it will destroy 87 mature trees, leaving 39. The application presumes to meet all the NJ RSIS requirements in terms of stormwater rates, but the total volume of stormwater reaching the swamp will increase significantly. The hearing continues on January 8.

County Widens Historic Road Despite Township's Plan

The Morris County roads department is still having some difficulty giving up the 1950s road designs. Only a tiny portion of their current project on Long Hill Road and Mountain Avenue in the Gillette area lies within the Great Swamp watershed (the reminder is in the Upper Passaic), but it bears watching because they have selected areas where they felt it "necessary" to install Belgian block curbing to these historic, rural roadways. And, of course, it is a pity to go to all that effort of installing the block without widening the roadway a few inches. These roadways are older than our nation's Constitution; they are featured in our Township Master Plan; and they have been designated for special protection by resolution of the Township Committee. Leave them alone!

Builder Michael Menza Again Applauded

Once again, Michael Menza (Menza and Beissel, Inc.) is providing good news. You may recall that the Ten Towns Committee gave him an award for sensitive environmental design for his 8-lot subdivision in Long Hill. One of these lots contained the historic Torrey Mansion. Menza stepped aside from the profit motive and agreed to allow the Long Hill Historic Commission nine months to find a buyer rather than destroy the old house and rebuild. He then graciously extended the time frame by several more months, with the final deadline looming at midnight on October 31—a contract for purchase was signed with less than 24 hours remaining! Perhaps it had something to do with the deadline being on Halloween with a rare blue moon, but the kudos go to Mr. Menza for helping to maintain the character of Long Hill.—*Len Hamilton*

NEW VIDEO DEMONSTRATES HOW TO AVOID POLLUTING WATERSHED

By Larry Chase

“Doing Water Right,” a 24-minute videotape demonstrating the environmental benefits of “blue-green technologies,” is now available from the Great Swamp Watershed Association in Madison, NJ.

Blue-green technologies, according to Melissa Paly, producer-director of the tape, are environmentally friendly ways to handle stormwater runoff, which is a principal contributor to water pollution, both in the Great Swamp watershed and across the country.

The conventional way of dealing with stormwater, she points out, is to channel it as quickly as possible, via gutters and culverts, to nearby waterways or wetlands. When this method is applied in developed areas, it carries large amounts of chemicals from roads and lawns into local streams.

“On the other hand,” says Paly, “blue-green technologies apply alternative measures — roof gardens, porous pavements, small holding pools and the like— to allow stormwater to return to the water table, or to evaporate, or to nourish local plants, instead of gathering up pollutants and carrying them into streams.” Such alternatives are also often less expensive than traditional methods, she emphasizes.

“Doing Water Right” examines six applications of blue-green technology: a roof garden (or vegetated roof cover) in Philadelphia; bioretention basins in a Maryland subdivision; a porous-asphalt parking lot in Philadelphia; an expanded detention basin (or constructed wetland) at a Delaware mall; a transformed sump (or holding area) on Long Island; and a reconstructed streambed in Massachusetts.

The purpose of the tape, according to Julia M. Somers, the Great Swamp Watershed Association’s ex-



ecutive director, is to introduce blue-green techniques locally both to developers and to residents who are building on, or landscaping, property in the Great Swamp watershed. A companion handbook, which will contain de-

tailed engineering and design requirements, is also being prepared.

“It’s only by maintaining water quality in the watershed’s streams that the purity of the Swamp itself can be preserved,” she says. “If pollutants in the streams that feed Great Swamp continue to increase as a result of increasing development, the remarkable abundance of plant and animal life in the National Wildlife Refuge and other public lands will soon diminish. Applications of blue-green technologies can keep that from happening.”

“Doing Water Right” was produced by Cross-Current Productions of Kittery, Maine. Funding for both the video and handbook were provided by the Schumann Fund for New Jersey; the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; the Fanny and Svante Knistrom Foundation; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; the Charles and Lucille King Family Foundation; and the Fund for New Jersey.

The Watershed Association plans to distribute copies of the tape to local government officials, developers, and other environmental organizations, and to loan it at no charge to

interested residents. The video may also be purchased for \$13.00, which includes mailing costs. To obtain a copy, call the Watershed Association at 973.966.1900, or send an e-mail to everything@greatswamp.org.

SAVING STREAMWAYS BENEFITS ALL

By Jan Malay



A Landowner's Guide to Saving Streamways In the Great Swamp Watershed

The Streamways project began as an outgrowth of the 1997 GSWA publication *Saving Space: the Great Swamp Watershed Greenway and Open Space Plan*. That publication delineated “tiers” of environmentally valuable property in the watershed. The core idea behind the Streamways initiative is to create protective buffers around two of the highest quality streams in the watershed: Primrose Brook and the Upper Passaic River, to preserve their high water quality.

The creation of streamways also promotes the connection of local areas of protected land, such as the Jockey Hollow section of Morristown National Historical Park, and the Refuge itself. The Primrose Brook streamway could connect the Morristown National Historical Park in Harding and Morris Townships to the Refuge.

The objective is being accomplished through presentations and mailings to the residents of the five towns affected, which are Bernards Township, Bernardsville, Harding

Township, Mendham Township, and Mendham Borough. GSWA seeks to educate people about the benefits of conserving open space adjacent to streamways, which can be accomplished by the placement of conservation easements, among other means.

GSWA also seeks to act as a link between landowners of streamside property and resources that can inform these property owners about plans for streambank restoration, integrated pest management and other environmentally friendly land management practices.

The “Saving Streamways” publication, which offers an overview of these objectives, has been mailed by GSWA to all affected residents in the 5 towns (approximately 300), along with resource information. “Saving Streamways” recently received the ANJEC 2001 Environmental Achievement Award at its Annual Congress in October 2001. If you would like to receive a free copy of “Saving Streamways” or find out how you can protect your local streams, call the Watershed Association at 973.966.1900.

LOCAL TEACHERS INVITED TO PROJECT WET WORKSHOP

Local teachers and youth leaders who work with children in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to a free workshop to learn how to use Project WET environmental-education tools in the classroom and in outdoor projects.

Sponsored by the Great Swamp Watershed Association, the workshop will take place from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20**, at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, in Summit.

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a collection of innovative, water-related activities that are hands-on, easy to use and fun. Workshop participants will receive the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide, specific information about the Great Swamp watershed, and the Project WET Matrix showing which New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards are covered in each activity.

Workshop attendees will actively participate in hands-on lessons from the Project WET Guide and will receive a copy of the Teacher’s Guide to the Great Swamp Watershed, prepared by the Watershed Association. In addition, participants will receive approved professional development credits applicable to new statewide requirements.

To register for the workshop, or for more information, call Karen Patterson at 973.966.1900.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Generous donations were made in memory of:

- Mrs. Gene Clark by Mr. and Mrs. F. Sobel;
- Grant Shannon by Mr. Kenneth Gursky.

What's Happening in the Swamp: A Calendar of Events

Following is a highly selective listing of events and activities offered to the public by private and county agencies that have facilities within and near the Great Swamp watershed. Many of these organizations offer far more activities than those listed, including day and weekend trips to other areas. Call for complete information.

In addition to programs and activities, many of the agencies are also staffed by naturalists and maintain extensive hiking trails, nature-center displays and exhibits, and book sales. For many listings, advance registration is required; for all, it is advised. To register, to receive additional information, or for directions, call the telephone numbers given below.

Ongoing

Every day, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.: Raptor Trust bird viewing area open to the public, free. 908.647.2353.

Every Friday and Saturday, 8-9 a.m.: Naturalist-led walk at Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuaries of the NJ Audubon Society, Bernardsville. Free. 908.766.5787.

February

2 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Learn about your camera and how to take a terrific picture at Morris Co. Outdoor Education Center, Chatham Twp. \$5. 973.635.6629.

7 7:30 p.m.: The Craft and Mystery of Coopering (barrel-making) by Gene Fox at the Long Hill Historical Society, Long Hill Rescue Squad, Valley Road. Free. 908.953.8413.

8 7 p.m.: Winter Reflections: bring a friend, pillow to sit on, poem to share at Morris County Outdoor Education Center, Chatham Twp. Free. 973.635.6629.

16 2-4 p.m.: Preschool Sensory Afternoon: indoor program for preschool children to explore their five senses at Morris County Outdoor Education Center, Chatham Twp. Free 973.635.6629.

18 1,2,3, & 4 p.m.: What was Washington really like? Ford Mansion tour. 973.539.2016.x210.

March

3 1-4 p.m.: Maple Sugar Festival: sweet fun for the whole family at Morris County Outdoor Education Center, Chatham Twp. Free. 973.635.6629.

3 1-5 p.m. Reception for animal and wilderness artist Jill Sutherland, whose paintings will be on exhibit through March at Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuaries, Bernardsville. 908.766.5787.

16 2 p.m.: Learn about the ecological importance of bats at Morris County Outdoor Education Center, Chatham Twp. Free. 973.635.6629.

April

6 20, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 p.m.: Learn about making maps during the Revolutionary War at the Museum, Morristown Headquarters. 973.539.2016.x210.

14 1-4 p.m.: Learn to play 18th century games like Fox & Geese, Nine Men Morris, Graces and Quoits at Wick Farm. 973.543.4030.

21 Noon-3:30 p.m.: Ten minute talks about the nature of Colonial life at Visitors Center, Jockey Hollow. 973.539.2085.

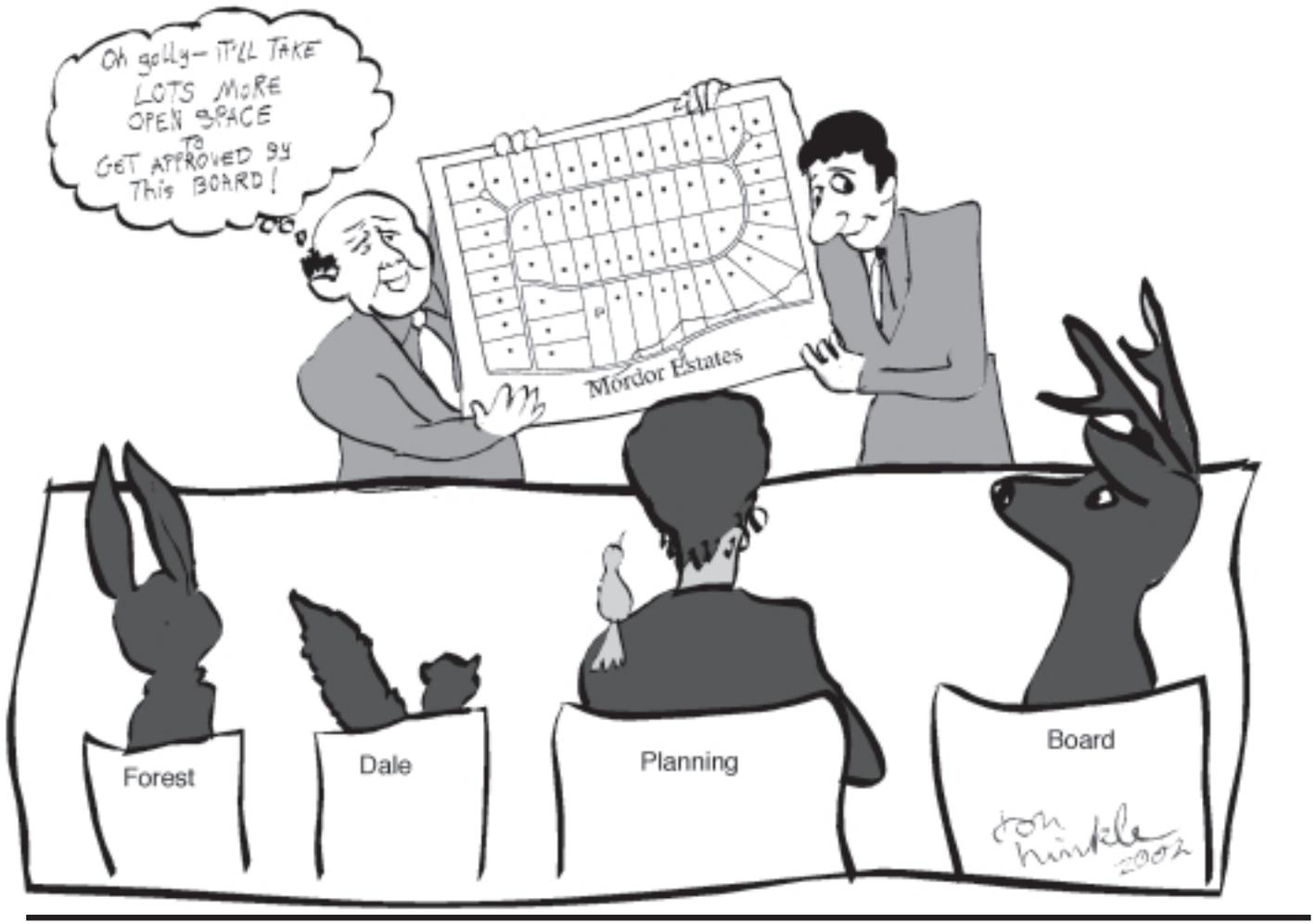
SCENES FROM ANNUAL DINNER 2001



Margot and Eric Brundage of New Vernon.

From left: Sigrid Mueller and Jim Mueller of Harding Township, Susan Budd and David Budd of Morristown.





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 "Doing Water Right" - 9

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