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ACROSS THE WATERSHED

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Winter 2003

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 23 No.1

Frank Parker Honored at Great Swamp Annual Event

By Amy Ewen

On Friday November 15, The Great Swamp Watershed Association held its 9th annual event at Mead Hall at Drew University. The evening included the annual meeting, cocktails, and silent auction to raise money for the Great Swamp's environmental education and protection programs. In addition, Frank Parker received the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Memorial Award.

For more than two decades, Frank Parker has been at the heart of The Trust for Public Land's work in New Jersey. He became involved in land conservation issues in 1959, working on the Great Swamp Committee to establish a wildlife refuge in the Great Swamp.

He also served as the first chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Under his watch, the Comprehensive Management Plan was formed, and the Commission's direction has remained very much the same since Frank's involvement.

An environmental leader herself for more than 20 years and previous recipient of the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Memorial Award, Candace Ashmun presented the award. She



gave a brief speech, praising Frank for his personal, as well as environmental successes. Candy highlighted some of Frank's specific achievements, but overall her speech complimented his character and genuinely caring nature.

"Whether it is in the Great Swamp, in the Pinebarrens,

on the Hudson, in Jackson Hole, at Mishaum Point (MA), or on the ocean, Frank is there to make things happen. All his work is nationally significant but the efforts to save the Great Swamp and the Pinelands ecosystem involved a kind of leadership and planning that has not been equaled anywhere."

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The Great Swamp Watershed Association gives many thanks to the donors that made our silent auction such a success!

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Marshall Bartlett
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From the Desk of Julia Somers, Executive Director:

Laying the Groundwork

Much of the work we do involves laying the groundwork for environmentally sound development practices and it often takes years to see the results of our efforts. I am pleased to report that thanks to the staff, trustees, volunteers, and supporters of the Watershed Association, we have made significant progress this past year (some we take credit for and some we participated in the development process):

- In December, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published proposed stormwater regulations for public comment. These regulations are designed to reduce pollution levels in New Jersey's water resources caused by stormwater runoff and to help replenish vital ground water supplies throughout the state.
- This year also saw adoption by the DEP of an amendment to the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rule, which protects vernal ponds by eliminating general permits in these environmentally sensitive areas.
- We welcome the Morristown Friends of Great Brook as a subcommittee of GSWA. The Friends group is focused on preserving and enhancing wetlands in the headwaters of Great Brook.
- The second annual Do The Swamp Thing promotion created interest in local environmental resources and enormous publicity for the region.
- Our Stream Team helped make possible the 2002 Water Quality Report and Water Quality Standards, published by the Ten Towns Committee in June 2002. The Watershed Association is working to expand its Water Quality Monitoring Program and will begin working on Loantaka Brook in 2003.

There are many opportunities within the organization to represent environmental interests and we are often limited because there are more opportunities than the staff and I can handle. I probably spend 50% of my time representing our members at different types of meetings. We could increase our profile and extend our reach if we had volunteers interested in representing us. These opportunities include:

- Local – Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Township Committee or Council, Stream Team, Washington Valley & Jockey Hollow Coalition, Morristown Friends of Great Brook;
- Regional – SEAMLESS, Ten Towns Committee, Somerset and Morris County Freeholders, Somerset County Smart Growth Strategic Plan, Watershed Management Area 6, Do The Swamp Thing;
- Non-profit – Earth Share NJ, NJ Council of Watershed Associations, Environmental Summit (an informal organization of environmental organizations, getting together to discuss issues);
- State (NJDEP) – we are stakeholders in regulatory issues such as wetlands protection, stormwater management, and water supply management.

If any of these organizations or issues interest you, please let me know and we'll find a satisfying way for you to become involved. Your participation will allow us to continue to extend our reach on behalf of this very special region.



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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Across the Watershed

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Environmental Commissions: Keeping the Focus on Nature

by Karen Patterson

The Great Swamp Watershed Association has been an important actor and voice for the environment for over 20 years now. We monitor the water quality of our streams, work to preserve and restore the ecological health of protected open space, bring environmental education programs to area teachers and students, and perhaps most importantly, serve as advocates for environmental protection in front of various planning boards and boards of adjustment throughout the ten towns. Fortunately, we are not alone in our efforts. Each town in the watershed has an environmental commission which works to protect the natural resources specific to that town. Some environmental commissions have been around almost since the enabling legislation was first signed in 1968 (Harding Township) or were formed as recently as 1998 (Morristown). Some of the Environmental Commissions focus on education and outreach activities, while others place more emphasis on reviewing and making recommendations on proposed development plans that come before their town's planning board or board of adjustment.

In 1968, the State Legislature passed a law that authorized, but did not require, municipalities to set up conservation commissions, modeled after those in several New England states. The conservation commissions were envisioned as advisory bodies on natural resource planning and protection, and open space issues. However, in 1972 the law was amended to broaden the scope of the commissions to include other issues such as pollution prevention and control, solid waste management, noise control and environmental appearance. The

name for the commissions was also changed to Environmental Commission (hereafter referred to as EC) to reflect these increased responsibilities. According to the Environmental Commissioner's Handbook, published by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, ECs are mandated to keep records, make an annual report and keep an index of open spaces, both publicly and privately owned. In addition, ECs have the following powers:

- Research the use of open land and also make recommendations;
- Acquire property in the name of the municipality;
- Develop and maintain an Environmental Resource Inventory or Natural Resource Inventory (the terms are interchangeable);
- Study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation, water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and protection of flora and fauna.

From the perspective of the Watershed Association, one of the most valuable things an Environmental Commission can do is to produce an Environmental Resources Inventory or Natural Resources

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Bernards Township

Chair: Bert Fonde bfonde@chubb.com
Meeting Time and Place: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall

Web-site: <http://www.bernards.org> (select "contacts" and then under "send to" select Environmental Commission)

Bernardsville Borough

Chair: Sherry Frawley 908.953.9486
908.766.3000 x 151
Meeting Time and Place: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Borough Hall.

Chatham Township

Chair: Dot Stillinger 973.635.4600 (municipal offices) Chatham Township Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ 07928.

Meeting Time and Place: First Tuesday of the month at 7:45 in the Chatham Township Municipal Building.
Web-site: www.chathamtownship.org

Harding Township

Chair: Chris Allyn callyn@verizon.net
Meeting Time and Place: First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall.

Long Hill Township

Chair: Vince Blenx 908.647.2516
35 Sherwood Lane, Stirling, NJ 07980
Meeting Time and Place: Fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Town Hall
Web-site: www.longhillnj.org

Madison Borough

Chair: Ernest Cicconi Ernie.cicconi@cit.com, 973.593.3042
Meeting Time and Place: Last Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Committee Room of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building.
Web-site: www.rosenet.org/gov/environmental/

Mendham Borough

Chair: Will Geiger will.geiger@verizon.net
973.543.4955
Meeting Time: Third Thursday of the month at 8:00 PM in the Phoenix House
Web-site: www.mendhamnj.org/envcomm.htm

Mendham Township

Co-Chairs: Ralph Rhodes rrhodes22@aol.com, Sarah Dean Link SarahDeanL@aol.com
Meeting Time and Place: Third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall

Morris Township

Chair: Ted Largman. Contact Sandi Young at the Town Hall for information 973.326.7215
Meeting Time and Place: Second Tuesday of every other month at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall.

Morristown

Chair: Karen Patterson Greene kpatters@greatswamp.org, 973.727.5652
Meeting Time and Place: Second Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM in the Town Hall 2nd floor meeting room.

Swamp Watch — Local Environment

Madison

Citizens' Efforts Advance Stormwater and Groundwater Protections for the Former Exxon Tract

Madison hosted a public meeting on September 25 to provide information on the potential impact of development on the 475-acre former Exxon property at Park Avenue. The meeting also addressed the rationale for litigation pursued by Madison, Chatham Twp and Chatham Borough challenging the Planned Office Development (POD) ordinance of the Borough of Florham Park, the ordinance which will guide development of the Exxon site. The legal action was considered by the three towns to be the only remaining option in order to protect against over development of the site, which would increase traffic on residential roads, allow 60% impervious coverage, even over re-charge soils, and provide a major incentive for the developers to seek and obtain a new Rt. 24 connector.

On October 18, Superior Court Judge Reginald Stanton ordered a new public hearing on the POD, ruling that Florham Park had not met the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act when it adopted the ordinance without accommodation for the overflow crowd. On November 26, Florham Park repeated its public hearing, which was attended by over 300 residents, representatives, and professionals. As a result of input at that meeting, the Council amended the ordinance, reducing impervious coverage and inserting language intended to address stormwater runoff and aquifer recharge.

While a good step forward, land use advocates remain concerned about impacts to traffic, aquifer recharge, quality of life, and a proposed Rt. 24 connector.

Note: Although the former Exxon site does not lie with the GS Watershed, substantial impacts to the Watershed will be inevitable.

Will Some Dells Disappear on Dellwood Parkway?

A second application (following one denied in December of 2001) is currently before the Madison Planning Board for Block 4903, Lot 10 (Dellwood Pkwy South). The applicants seek to sub-divide 1 lot into 3. With steep slopes, a wooded terrain and prime aquifer recharge soil, conflicting testimony from engineers regarding the efficacy of proposed stormwater management techniques and systems is the focal point. The hearings will continue in January.

Judy Kroll

Bernards Township

Ridge Oak Senior Complex to Expand

On October 8, the township Planning Board voted unanimously to approve a new 40-unit apartment building on 6.28 acres at the Ridge Oak senior citizens complex, which currently consists of 248 units. There was no public opposition voiced at the latest meeting. Julia Somers, Executive Director of GSWA, testified in support citing the tremendous positive changes from the initial project. Financing for the project, sponsored by Ridge Oak Inc., a nonprofit management entity composed of six local churches, is through a \$4.1 million federal grant.

In 1999 the Planning Board denied the original application for a larger, assisted living facility. A lawsuit was filed by Ridge Oak, and the denial was overturned by a state Superior Court judge, leading to talks between the township and Ridge Oak which resulted in a settlement in October 2000. Under the settlement, Ridge Oak would have been permitted to build up to 48 units on the 6.28 acre site.

Ann Parsekian

Hot Spots

Long Hill Township

In a 5-3 split decision, Long Hill's Planning Board approved a local couple's application to build a second home on an adjacent lot. Both lots, on Bungalow Terrace, are nonconforming and located in a region just above the Millington Gorge that has a history of severe flooding.

Board Chair William Hopcraft got it right when he characterized the application as poor planning, and went on to say that "the reality is that every new structure, every new development that takes place in that area is going to worsen the flooding situation."

The Great Swamp Greenhouse's application for expansion of its parking area and relief from other restrictions will continue before the Board of Adjustment on January 28, 2003. The retail outlet sits immediately adjacent to Refuge property and its impervious coverage is already far in excess of that permitted under Long Hill's ordinances. In a series of expansions beginning in 1979, the commercial operation has grown to nearly 50 thousand square feet of impervious surface, and has no provisions for stormwater management. Local residents are also concerned about the underground aquifer because the applicant pumps huge volumes of water from a private well to water plants.

Len Hamilton

Mendham Township

On Thursday, December 12, the Mendham Board of Adjustment met to consider the Morris Area Girl Scouts' application to enlarge and modernize its camp at Jockey Hollow. At two previous meetings neighborhood opponents presented engineering and planning testimony, as well as testimony from Lloyd Smith's great-niece (who lives in Oklahoma) and Albert Jeffers, Esq. who had known and worked for Mr. Smith. Lloyd Smith gave the Girl Scouts all the land that makes up the Jockey Hollow Girl Scout Camp with a restriction that it remain "wild and rustic" and be used for camping.

After two hours of discussion the Board unanimously disapproved construction of a caretaker's and maintenance facility, but asked that the Board attorney prepare a draft resolution approving the use variance sought by MAGSC permitting an increase in the number of girls who may use the site at any one time. This anticipates use of the site 12 months a year. They also requested that MAGSC consider a wastewater system composed entirely of composting toilets with a complementary gray-water system to handle other wastewater. MAGSC are to return to the Board with a proposal. Other issues yet to be addressed at a January Board meeting include the proposed site plan. Use of the campsite by any group other than Girl Scouts will not be permitted.

Julia Somers

Space: the Final Frontier

GSWA is looking to move to **larger** office space! Additions to staff over the last 12 months have rendered our current office at 36 Main Street too crowded. We also need on-site storage to replace our current rented locker space. We are looking for 2-3,000 square feet, in or near the watershed.

Obviously, cost is a factor. The space must be affordable! Please contact the staff at 973.966.1900 or everything@greatswamp.org.

Chatham Township

Open Space Purchase

A 6.6-acre tract on Woodland Avenue will be saved as open space thanks to the stewardship of Chatham Township, Chatham Borough, and a \$250,000 grant from the Morris County Board of Freeholders in December. The total cost of the property is \$1,562,500. The two towns have approved bond issues of \$850,000 each to cover the cost.

The property, which spans both towns, will be used for playing fields. Environmental concerns are likely to have high priority in field design because Chatham Township's no net increase in stormwater runoff ordinance will apply. 6 of the 6.6 acres are in the township. In addition, the municipalities have before them the recent precedent in stormwater engineering for athletic fields set by Oak Knoll School's high-tech storm water management system.

The public is also likely to appreciate the need to protect the natural rainwater recharge capabilities of the proposed fields. The new tract contains prime aquifer recharge soils, and public awareness of the importance of groundwater recharge has been heightened by the drought and the recent objections to paving over recharge soils on the former Exxon property in Florham Park.

Goodbye to Acres of Woods Near Green Village and Shunpike Roads; Planning Board Approves Oak Knoll Fields

In December, the Planning Board approved the Oak Knoll athletic fields project on the 13.4 acres near Green Village and Shunpike Roads. The applicant will clear about 800 trees and fill in wetlands that are headwaters to a tributary of Black Brook. Despite this loss, the planned fields are said to meet the township's stormwater requirements through subsurface storage and infiltration basins.

Both Township Committeewoman Abigail Fair, who is a Planning Board member, and the Chatham Township Environmental Commission suggested a conservation easement for about 100 feet along the western property line, but school authorities would not agree. A conservation easement would have been an opportunity to guarantee the future natural state and public access to a strip of land that Oak Knoll already plans to leave in tact as woods with steep slopes. The proposed easement also would have served as a link in the township's proposed walking/biking path greenway extending from the neighboring Loantaka Brook Reservation.

The school, however, did demonstrate some long-term land stewardship by working closely with the Tree Commission to choose the type and location of functional shade trees to be planted on the peripheries of the fields.

Sterling Properties to Build 56-Townhouse Complex

On December 2nd, the Planning Board granted preliminary site plan approval of the application by Sterling Properties to build 56 townhouses on the heavily-wooded 30-acre site next to the Chatham Mall on Shunpike Road near Green Village Road. The approval is conditional on obtaining DEP permits for wetlands disturbance and certification of a dam on an existing pond.

The remaining major challenge of storm water management on the property is to slow runoff from Madison. The runoff comes from a storm sewer outfall pipe that originates on Rachel Avenue in Madison, and from sheet flow off the Madison Golf Club. Stormwater now flows into a deep channel that it has cut, moves into an existing stream and then into a pond that had been used on this former Tublitz estate as a swimming hole.

The stormwater plan that the DEP and the township approved employs two vortex chamber stormceptors, one to catch and filter sediment out of the water from the outfall pipe and one to catch runoff from the golf course. The vertical chamber has the benefit of saving more trees than a previously-considered plan to dig a retention basin at the top of the property.

The natural stream on the property, which the DEP had said was part of a valuable "lentic" ecosystem, will be disturbed and then preserved. The stream will be re-graded, filled with rocks, and then be accompanied by a 42-inch pipe running underground along side it to handle overflow.

After earlier changes, the Planning Board approved a steep slopes variance to allow Sterling to build their proposed 56 townhouses. Preserving the steep slopes would have meant reducing the number of townhouses by only one or two.

GSWA has been following this project since its inception in 1996 and much reduction in the number of housing units had already been done. In 1997, Sterling received approval from the Board of Adjustment for a 122-unit complex, but the project was stopped after a group of township residents appealed the Board's decision to the Township Committee. The citizens asserted that Sterling hadn't justified the inordinate number of D-class variances needed. The Township Committee upheld the appeal and thereby denied Sterling's application. Sterling then appealed the denial in Superior Court in Morristown. The judge remanded the application back to the Board of Adjustment.

In October 1998, Sterling presented to the Planning Board a 96-unit design but failed to pursue it fully. Sterling's latest application for the 56 townhouses began in June 2000, by which time the Township Committee had revised the Master Plan so that the former Tublitz estate rose from a 12-unit-per-acre to a 3-unit-per-acre zone and a use variance was no longer needed from the Board of Adjustment. Sterling agreed to a 100-foot conservation easement along the western and northern borders of its future townhouse complex.

Kathy Abbott

Corporate Council at Work

What do area companies Atlantic Mutual, Schering-Plough, and Wyeth have in common? They are all located at Giralda Farms, near the Loantaka Brook and are joining forces with the Watershed Association to adopt Loantaka Brook and help fund its restoration.

According to Bonnie Gannon, Development Director of the Watershed Association, "We are so excited about this new program because Loantaka Brook is the most polluted of the five watershed streams flowing into the Great Swamp. (Five streams flow into the Great Swamp and exit as the Passaic River, providing drinking water for 1.2 million New Jersey residents.) Thanks to our corporate sponsors, we will identify and measure the levels of pollutants now found in Loantaka Brook, identify the sources of those pollutants, and identify strategies to reduce pollution. Since Giralda Farms is in the Loantaka Brook sub-watershed, it lends itself to corporate-sponsorship of this program. It is wonderful that these companies are forward-thinking enough to take responsibility for protecting the local environment."

Gannon also said, "These corporations can have, over time, a positive and tangible environmental impact because pollutants in the streams flowing into Great Swamp severely threaten the area's fragile ecosystem. When excess levels of nitrogen and phosphorous, the primary pollutants of concern here, enter the Great Swamp, they disrupt the natural cycle of plant growth and decay. Over years, this can seriously disrupt the ecological balance of the Great Swamp, diminishing its capability to provide essential habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species."

Although it may take years of sustained effort to restore Loantaka Brook to healthier conditions, thanks to Atlantic Mutual, Wyeth, and Schering-Plough, we're off to a good start. If you or your employer would like to contribute to this clean-up effort, call Bonnie Gannon at (973) 966-1900.



From left Sharon Prince, Senior Director, Corporate Contributions and Public Affairs, Wyeth; Shirley Grill, Vice President Human Resources, Atlantic Mutual; Nancy Miller-Rich, Vice President Business Development, Schering-Plough.



Ask us about this workplace giving campaign.

Frank Parker Honored at Great Swamp Annual Event

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A long time friend of Frank's, Candy also recounted some of her personal stories. A story of Frank running his sailboat aground in Edgartown (MA) harbor, "because somebody moved something" received plenty of smiles.

Candy closed her speech by reading a letter from a Pinelands staff member, which she felt exemplified why Frank Parker had achieved so much in a lifetime of public service.

Other events of the night included the silent auction, which was a huge success. The auction has become an annual fundraising event for the Association. There were over 60 items donated to the auction, including tickets to professional sporting events, gifts from local businesses, original paintings and photographs, gift baskets, dinner at area restaurants, vacation homes, and much more.

Nearly every item was sold, and the Association raised over \$20,000 for educational and environmental programs.

Guests of the evening enjoyed cocktails and conversation in historic Mead Hall of Drew University, and mingled with fellow members and environmentalists, including Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, a resident of Harding Township.

Local photographer Dwight Hiscano was also present, signing and selling copies of his book, "New Jersey, The Natural State".

The night seemed to fly by, as bids were placed, awards were given, and prizes were awarded. There was never a quiet moment, as lively conversations and laughter filled the halls. The event was a tremendous success both for the Association, and its guests.

Amy Ewen is our intern at GSWA. She is a senior at Drew University.

Great Swamp Watershed Association Members'

SUPER² SWAMP SCIENCE SHOW

Experience amazing scientific phenomena that occur routinely in nature but are rarely discernable by casual observers. Frequently fascinating, often awesome, intensely engaging, simply Super² Swamp Science will intrigue, no matter what your age, and perhaps inspire new thirst for learning.

Before your eyes:

- A human head shrinks, then becomes humongous
- Gravity is foiled
- Your hair stands on end
- A gallon crunches itself up
- Air "glue" defeats human muscle
- Common household objects toll like bells
- Water bends
- Balls dropped 3 feet bounce to the ceiling
- An echo becomes invisible
- A car is propelled by light
- Nature maintains her balance



Come watch, or come up and participate.



CALL NOW!

Shows start at 10:00 AM. Advance registration required for admission. \$3.00 per person. 973.966.1900

Great Swamp Watershed Association
PO Box 300
New Vernon, N.J. 07976

Saturday, February 1, 2003
At the Environmental Education Center
190 Lord Stirling Road
Basking Ridge, N.J.

Presented jointly by Great Swamp Watershed Association and Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center.

Endowment Gifts Keep Giving

Although the Watershed Association has been financially stable, according to Development Director Bonnie Gannon, a viable endowment fund is an important part of sound fiscal planning and we began a campaign this fall to strengthen ours.

According to David Budd, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, "Today we are especially concerned about our ability to sustain our regular fundraising momentum because of the economic and political uncertainty. We are also concerned that the poor performance of the equity markets during 2002 is a very specific risk to our historical institutional funding support base."

As their goal, the Development Committee hopes to build to a \$1 million (market value) endowment as quickly as possible. The current endowment is just under \$400,000. "Income earned on the balance will enable us to continue to balance our budget and address urgent local issues as they appear before planning and zoning boards across the watershed," Budd continued.

Please contact Bonnie Gannon or David Budd at 973-966-1900 for more information about making a contribution to the endowment fund, the gift that keeps giving.



Great Swamp Watershed Association Honored by ANJEC

At the recent Environmental Congress held by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), Great Swamp Watershed Association was selected to receive a 2002 New Jersey Environmental Achievement Award for their video and handbook on Blue/Green Technology. John Malay, Project Director and Julia Somers, Executive Director of the Watershed Association were at the Environmental Congress to receive the award.

The Watershed Association's award-winning video, *Doing Water Right*, shows 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 handbook, *Blue-Green Technologies: Integrated Practices to Manage Stormwater as an Asset* was developed as a companion to the video. The 170 page, 4 color book presents a holistic, comprehensive design approach to maintaining the natural water budget for a given site.

The award-winning video may be purchased for \$10.00 and the handbook for \$40.00. To obtain a copy, call the Great Swamp Watershed Association at 973-966-1900.

Win-Win Solutions for Conservationists and Developers:

Book Review of *Green Development: Integrating Ecology and Real Estate* by Alex Wilson, Jenifer L. Uncapher, et al.

Reviewed by Karen Parrish

For those who despair of finding common ground in the ongoing battle between land development and environmental protection, *Green Development: Integrating Ecology and Real Estate* provides welcome relief. Written under the auspices of the Rocky Mountain Institute, the volume is a casebook for integrating resource-efficient, ecologically sound practices in modern developments. The book shows through numerous examples that such practices not only benefit the environment and the local community, they are financial winners for the developers who build them as well.

Though the green development rubric encompasses a wide array of possibilities for residential and commercial development, all projects include three basic elements: environmental responsiveness, resource efficiency, and community and cultural sensitivity.

In terms of land use, green developments are responsive to the environment by fitting into existing natural landscapes, through redevelopment of “already-built” areas, and through preservation of as much agricultural and/or natural habitats as possible. Resource efficiency, or “doing more with less,” occurs through a number of methods: clustering developments to reduce infrastructure, promoting pedestrian- and transit-friendly transportation to minimize air pollution and traffic, and recycling buildings and construction waste to save energy and reduce landfill costs. Rather than contribute to the faceless anonymity of sprawl, green developers are sensitive to the community and to local cultures because they promote a sense of identity and uniqueness in the neighborhoods they build, working with existing infrastructure, vernacular design, and local products, materials, and customs. A philosophy about building, as much as any particular practice, “green development is the application of ecological thinking to the business of creating places for people to live and work.”

The authors showcase Dewees Island, South Carolina as an illustration of green development and the resulting benefits for the environment, residents, and developer. Once it is built out, the island will be radically different from neighboring Hilton Head Island to the south, with sixty five percent of the island remaining forever wild. Hiking trails meander among saltwater estuaries. Lot size impacts are minimized, roads are not paved, and lawns and non-native species are prohibited. Homes are sited on lots to take advantage of summer shade and winter sunlight so as to maximize energy efficiency.

Such subdivision design features have obvious and lasting implications for the habitats of Dewees Island. Home to aquatic birds and alligators, bobcats and foxes, the marshes, lagoons, and forests of the island will be spared the stormwater runoff and groundwater recharge problems commonly associated with residential development. Energy costs are reduced, a financial win for homeowners and an environmental benefit. Residents live in homes fully integrated with their natural surroundings. Dewees Island has become, in the words of New Jersey’s State Development and Redevelopment Plan, a “community of place”: unique, deeply satisfying to human needs and ecologically preserved.

Developers of green projects stand to benefit enormously. Those who minimize infrastructure see reduced capital costs. For Dewees Island, those costs were a full 60% below the average. (As an added bonus, green buildings typically carry reduced operating costs for their owners.) Developers also realize reduced-cost or even free marketing because they aren’t following typical “cookie cutter” approaches and thus benefit from enormous public interest. Perhaps the biggest saving comes from a streamlined approvals process, often possible because community members and environmentalists help to shape the project at an early stage. The authors illustrate this point through the experience of developers who worked on simultaneous projects in Virginia. One spent \$400,000 on an up-front, team-oriented planning approach; the second spent \$135,000. However, the second developer ended up spending considerable time revising his plans and his final planning costs were close to \$8 million.

In the Preface to *Green Development*, Amory Lovins, Vice President of the Rocky Mountain Institute, notes that green development strategy “transcends mere compliance strategies. It uses the process of addressing environmental concerns and opportunities as a catalyst to create fundamentally better buildings and communities.” The GSWA could not support a more laudable goal.

Note: This book may be difficult to find. I was able to borrow a copy from Seton Hall Law School Library through the interlibrary loan. It was published in 1998 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. -- KP

...the volume is a casebook for integrating resource-efficient, ecologically sound practices in modern developments.

Environmental Commissions: Keeping the Focus on Nature

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Inventory (the terms are interchangeable and will simply be referred to as Inventories throughout) that describes and spatially depicts, via maps, the environmental resources within a municipality. These resources include surface waters (lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands and floodplains), groundwater recharge potential, landuse and landcover, soils, wildlife and vegetation, steep slopes, etc. Once an EC has completed an Inventory and submitted copies to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment, those boards are then directed, under the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) to “make available to the environmental commission an informational copy of every application for development.” (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-27b). The Environmental Commission can then advise these boards on subdivision and site plan proposals, master plan changes, official maps and proposed rezoning, and any environmentally related ordinances. A commission may send a memo containing findings of fact and recommendations on any application, ordinance or master plan proposal that has environmental significance to the pertinent Board. A quick survey of ECs in the Great Swamp watershed revealed that many of them have either recently completed an Inventory or are currently working on one.

Environmental Commissions in the Great Swamp watershed have not limited themselves to Environmental or Natural Resource Inventories however. The ten watershed area ECs have taken on a wide range of projects, from well head protection efforts, to open space preservation, to mapping of stormwater outfalls, and more.

Remembering Nancy Foster

On a beautiful October day family, friends, and admirers of Nancy Foster gathered at the photography exhibit of Dwight Hiscano at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit to honor her memory. Nancy was an avid reader and naturalist and donations of Dwight Hiscano's book *NEW JERSEY The Natural State* were made to area libraries in her name.

Focusing on libraries within the Great Swamp Watershed, Bernards Township, Bernardsville, Chatham, Harding Township, Madison, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, Morristown Library, and the Somerset Environmental Education Center received autographed copies of the book.



From left: Charles Foster of Chatham, Julia Somers, Executive Director Great Swamp Watershed Association, Dwight Hiscano of Summit.

At the reception, friends and family of Nancy Foster took the opportunity to meet the artist and enjoy the exhibit of his photographs. Hiscano specializes in capturing the natural beauty of New Jersey on film. Foster had been a long-time trustee of the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

Watershed Association Welcomes New Trustees and Says Good-Bye To Retiring Trustees

Four new trustees, Todd Conway, Anne Essner, Jean Rich, and Tim Tweed have been elected to three-year terms, according to David A. Budd, outgoing Chairman of the Board of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. The Watershed Association is celebrating more than 20 years as a non-profit organization.

Todd Conway grew up in Harding and returned in 1987 to raise his children there. He has vivid memories of how it was then and wants to do his share to protect our invaluable local resources. Conway has worked in Brazil and South America, as well as New York City, but considers Harding and the Great Swamp his home. He currently divides his time between Fairfield, where he works in the design and manufacture of weapons detection devices and New York City, where his family has a fashion design studio.

Anne Essner, who lives in Morris Township, has been an invaluable volunteer on the Great Swamp Watershed Association's Development Committee for three years and an important influence in getting the Corporate Council off the ground. She is also a fundraiser for the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Jean Rich also lives in Morris Township and serves as the President of the Washington Valley Community Association. She has been actively involved in local land use issues for many years and helps lead the Washington Valley and Jockey Hollow Coalition, in which the Watershed Association participates.

A resident of Morris Township, Tim Tweed is a retired corporate attorney who has been very active in local politics. He has served two terms on the governor-appointed State Natural Area Council, and has worked on land preservation and land use issues throughout his career.

This is a diverse and well-rounded group,” said Budd, “they bring unique characteristics to the board. Each one of these trustees will be an asset to the Watershed Association and we are fortunate that they are willing to donate their time and expertise.”

Retiring as trustees of the Watershed Association are Paul Becker, David Budd, Michele Blanchard, and George Cassa. They have each been members of the board for two consecutive three-year terms, the maximum provided by the by-laws.

Join us in thanking the retiring trustees for their hard work and commitment to the Watershed Association. Their valuable contributions include Paul Becker serving on the Science and Technology Committee; David Budd, former Chair of the Development Committee, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, and outgoing Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Michele Blanchard, Chair of the Outreach and Education Committee; and George Cassa, outgoing Secretary and Chair of the Land Use Committee. New officers will be elected at the January board meeting.

Event Calendar

What's Happening In the Great Swamp Watershed

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

Tuesdays. 9:30 AM. Baby and Me walks. Put your infant in a pack and join a naturalist on various Morris County area trails. One hour long, registration required. Please call the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center for location of walk, and registration. Call (973) 635-6629.

Every Friday and Saturday. Nature Walks.

8 AM- 9 AM. Meet at the Scherman- Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary parking lot. No registration required- just show up! Join Don Freiday on Fridays or Mike Anderson on Saturdays for relaxed but informative walks. Free. Call (908) 766-5787.

Thursdays, February 6 through March 13- "Nature's Little Explorers"

9:45 AM- 10:30 AM. A six-session nature program for toddlers ages 18-36 months held outside on our wooded trails. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$50/ child.

January

19- Eagle Watch Trip

9 AM- 5 PM. An all day van trip up the Delaware River to look for eagles. Meet at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$20 per person. Call (973) 635-6629.

19-20- Storytelling

Morristown National Historical Park

1 PM at Wick house, 3 PM at Visitor Center. One of the most common forms of entertainment in the 18th century was telling stories. Listen as a sailor recounts folk tales, jokes and riddles that he learned from many cultures around the world. Call (973) 539-2016 ex. 210.

25- Maple Sugaring

2 PM. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$1. Call (973) 635-6629.

February

1- Eagle Watch Trip

9 AM- 5 PM. An all day van trip up the Delaware River to look for eagles. Meet at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$20 per person. Call (973) 635-6629.

4- Somerset County Environmental Center

7-8 PM. Every month, we discuss a book that has been, and remains, influential to the environmental community. Discussed this month will

be Down the Jersey Shore, by Russell Roberts. At the Environmental Education Center. Free, with advance sign up. Call (908) 766-2489.

7- "Wintertime Reflections"

7 PM. Spend a winter evening hearing and reciting poems about nature. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Call (973) 635-6629.

20- Swampies Puppet Show

3 PM at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Ages 3-7. Cost: \$5/ child. Call (973) 635-6629.

Sundays in February- Maple Sugaring

2 PM. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$1. Call (973) 635-6629.

March

2- Maple Sugar Festival.

1-4 PM. Games, crafts, sugaring demonstrations and more! At the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Call (973) 635-6629.

18- "Full Moon Hike"

7 PM. Meet at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. For adults only!

21- "Welcome Spring Puppet Show"

Ages 3-7. At the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$5/ child. Call (973) 635-6629.

22- "SNAKES with Bill Boesenberg"

2 PM. Learn all about snakes and meet several live ones too! At the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Cost: \$3 suggested donation. Call (973) 635-6629.

Elyssa Serrilli: Watershed Ambassador

Greetings! My name is Elyssa Serrilli, and I am the new Watershed Ambassador for Upper Passaic, Whippany, and Rockaway Rivers. My host agency, Great Swamp Watershed Association, is in downtown Madison. I am very excited to be working in WMA 6, an area where I have met with many environmentally conscious citizens and advocacy groups. Since I started in September, I have been involved with stream monitoring via the NJDEP's TMDL project, and made presentations to schools in Essex County and all over Morris County. I look forward to investigating other stream segments and working with more schools in the spring.

I am looking for volunteers interested in becoming a part of regular stream monitoring of the Passaic and Whippany Rivers. This "Adopt-a-Stream" project will model a similar program already in place on the Millstone River and entail choosing several stream segments local to the volunteers and visiting them once each season to do visual and biological surveys. It will connect members from the GSWA, PRC, WRAC, Drew University, and other groups as the project develops. If you're interested, please email me at elyssas@greatswamp.org or call me at 973-966-1900.

Staff Notes

GSWA welcomes back consultant **Karen Parrish** as a grant writer and researcher. She was a project director for many years, but had taken a leave of absence when pregnant with twins Sam and Juliana, who are now nearly two years old.

Cheryl Amatelli and **Jan Malay** have recently become the proud owners of a beautiful bay thoroughbred, Bay Painter, thanks to Dan Somers. Painter is stabled in Meyersville in the heart of the swamp. Pictures are freely available from the proud owners!

This fall **Julia Somers** made a presentation on advocacy tools to the New Jersey Council of Watershed Associations.

Congratulations to Julia's daughter **Emma** on her early acceptance from Middlebury College in Vermont, where she will likely be studying either History or Political Science.

Karen Patterson has been elected to chair the Morristown Environmental Commission.

John Malay completed a course in GIS training at Rutgers University. He and trustee **Ann Parsekian** represent the Watershed Association on the NJ Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee. John has replaced Karen Patterson as Municipal Liaison. In October he made a presentation to the Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet (similar to our Ten Towns Committee) regarding Blue-Green Technology.

Jan Malay and the **Outreach and Education Committee** have made watershed model presentations this fall to more than ten schools in or near the watershed. They have also trained teachers at a number of area schools to use the watershed models. Jan also attended a seminar at the Open Space Institute on a new Conservation Loan Program available through the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Contributions

Generous donations have been made in memory of Edward Bailey by Roseann, Ernie, Daniel, Christian and Kenneth Chavez; in memory of Cary Cassa by Carmel Bourneuf and Bruce Galton; in memory of Nancy Foster by Ella and Bill Dubose; in memory of David Herman by Renee Herman

Many thanks to Caroline Ford for her generous donation in honor of Mr. Maryska and Dr. and Mrs. J. Colin Campbell for their generous donation in honor of Frank Parker.

Contact us at 973.966.1900 or visit our web site at www.greatswamp.org

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