

Write us at  
P.O. Box 300  
New Vernon, NJ 07976



# ACROSS THE WATERSHED

2000-2001 Annual  
Report Inside

Fall 2001

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 21 No. 3

## GALA 20TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL DINNER SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 16

This year, in honor of the Watershed Association's 20th anniversary the Annual Dinner will have a new flavor.

The Roaring 20 will be the theme for the evening, which will include dinner, dancing, honoring special guests, and a silent auction. The celebration will be held at the Westin Hotel in Morristown.

In keeping with the evening's theme, swing dancing will be provided by Harvey Kaiser and the Kansas City Sound. Special guests to be honored include the Honorable Richard Bagger, Joanne Casadeval, Sally Dudley, Abigail Fair, Helen Fenske, the Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Michael Henderson, Penny Hinkle, William Koch, Sarah Dean Link, and the Honorable Robert Martin. Corporate sponsorship is being provided by American Home Products, AT&T, Briarpatch, Integrated Communications, King's Super Markets, Novartis, PSE&G, Recorder Community Newspapers, Schering-Plough, and Thonet Associates.



*Abigail Fair, of Green Village, is one of the special guests to be honored at the 20th Anniversary Dinner. She is one of the founding members of GSWA.*

Cost of the dinner is \$100 per person and invitations were sent to watershed association members. Help celebrate this historic (and fun) occasion by attending the annual dinner. If you did not receive an invitation, or need more information, call the Watershed Association at 973.966.1900.

## SINCE THE LAST ISSUE WE HAVE...

- Mailed information on best management practices to over 250 property owners in Harding, Bernards, Bernardsville, Mendham Township, and Mendham Borough who own property adjacent to the Upper Passaic river or Primrose Brook in an effort to reduce nonpoint source pollution and preserve the high quality of those waters.
- Installed a virtual walkthrough of our Education and Conservation area in Harding Township on our website, which highlights various physical and biological features of the property.
- Made presentations of our Enviroscope model demonstrating nonpoint source pollution to over 750 students in area schools. We also trained the staff at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center in the use of the model.
- Increased our email address file for members to 500.
- Gratefully noted that this year's endowment contributions exceeded \$85,000.

## GSWA SPEARHEADS LANDMARK PURCHASE OF 58 ACRES IN MORRIS TOWNSHIP

This June, the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) and Morris Township took title to a 58-acre parcel of land known as Jockey Hollow Top VI. The \$1.7 million purchase culminates an eight-year GSWA campaign to preserve this property.

The property lies on the western side of Route 202 in the southern part of Morris Township and development was originally proposed for this site. Had development on the property been permitted by the Morris Township Planning Board, says Julia Somers, Executive Director of

GSWA, the increased stormwater runoff would have dramatically increased pollutant levels, downstream flooding, erosion, and siltation.

This steeply sloped property lies just above the headwaters of Great Brook, one of the five principal streams in the watershed. This landmark purchase was funded by a Green Acres Grant from the NJDEP and Morris Township's Open Space Trust. Somers also said that this is one of the most critical land acquisitions to be made in the Great Swamp watershed. In addition to GSWA, other supporters of the

purchase included the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the National Park Service, Harding Township, and the Morris Land Conservancy.

According to Somers, This purchase has not only protected an environmentally valuable property, but also encourages the members of the Great Swamp Watershed Association that their work has value. She continues, Though preservation of this tract was truly a team effort, we've been working on it for eight years.

# TRANSCO PIPELINE UPDATE

By Beth Romero

After being hoodwinked for three years by Williams/Transco, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) finally realized what the people of New Jersey had been saying all along there was no market need for the MarketLink Expansion Project. On April 26, 2001, the Commission issued an order denying permission for Transco to proceed with "Phase III" of the project which included construction through the Great Swamp. (That "phases" in the project even existed testifies to the manipulation and control of this federal agency by the industry it purports to regulate.)

In May 1998, Transco filed an application with the FERC to construct and operate about 155 miles of pipeline loop between Leidy, Pennsylvania and Bergen County to create 700,000 decatherms per day of new capacity. Over 90 miles of the new pipeline was to be built in New Jersey through Hunterdon, Somerset, Morris and Passaic Counties. Locally, the route, known as the Stirling Loop, was to pass through the townships of Bernards, Long Hill and Chatham. Almost immediately, the Great Swamp Watershed Association and local residents became involved in what eventually became a state-wide movement opposing this pipeline project.

From the outset, the opposition was based on the argument that there was no market need for this new pipeline. This position was factually supported by data and statistics compiled by national organizations as well as by calculations by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. So convincing was the evidence that the State of New Jersey formally entered the FERC proceedings and fought the project at every level. Gov. Whitman authorized the at-

torney general to file a lawsuit in federal court to stop this project.

The forcefulness and effectiveness of New Jersey's opposition was due in great part to its non-partisan nature and the active participation of local, state and federal representatives. From my experience with a national pipeline safety coalition, I can say without hesitation that this was truly a unique situation. Rarely do politicians beyond the local level oppose the oil industry and certainly not across party lines. We were fortunate to have the active support of our representatives at all levels of government and from both sides of the aisle.

Without this concerted effort, many of us would now be looking out our windows at construction crews and piles of 42" pipeline.

Unfortunately, the current situation is just a temporary respite. In denying Transco's request to subdivide Phase III, the FERC left open the option of a new application. To no one's surprise, Transco filed an application for the "Leidy East" project in June. While it contemplates less than 10 miles of new pipeline in New Jersey as opposed to the original 90 miles, it will be no less devastating to the homeowners whose property is on the route. The argument that there is no market need is no less valid for Leidy East than it was for MarketLink. But on such a downsized project, there are now very few people interested in making the point.

My advice to you if you were going to be affected by MarketLink put your house up for sale now and move far away. "Divide and Conquer" has worked for a thousand years and Transco is making the best of it. Leidy North, Leidy West, Leidy Chatham, Leidy Nutley are coming soon.

## ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW NJ WATERSHED AMBASSADOR

Recent Roger Williams University graduate **Michelle Burke** joined GSWA this fall as part of the state-sponsored Watershed Ambassador s program aimed at educating the public about the importance of local water quality.

In this, our second year of participation in the program, which is funded by the federal AmeriCorps program, Michelle will spend nine months at Watershed Association Headquarters in Madison. She will educate the public on watershed management issues, train volunteers on how to monitor the health of their local streams, and encourage people to attend public planning and zoning meetings. As one of 17 statewide participants in this program, Burke will put in 1,700 hours of service with GSWA.

*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*

Editor:  
*Missy Small*  
Contributing Writer:  
*Beth Romero*  
Layout:  
*Don Hinkle*

## NANCY MILLER-RICH APPOINTED TRUSTEE

Nancy Miller-Rich, a 15-year resident of Morris County, with the last eight in Mendham Township, has been elected to a three-year term as trustee, according to David A. Budd, Chairman of the Board of the Great Swamp Watershed Association

Miller-Rich has been involved as a volunteer at the Watershed Association and lent her expertise to a variety of projects including the recent Do The Swamp Thing promotion. Nancy Miller-Rich's appointment will add to the diversity of the board because she brings with her more than 20 years of consumer marketing experience in the pharmaceutical industry and a true love of environmental issues, Budd said.

Ms. Miller-Rich is Vice President of Business Development at Schering-Plough HealthCare Products, where she has worked for 11 years. Her career encompasses 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry and she has held a wide variety of positions in sales, marketing and business development. Budd continued, "We're looking forward to her participation on the development committee and the board. Her appointment brings the number of Watershed Association board members to 22."

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Generous contributions were made in memory of:

- **William E. Austin** by Mrs. Lee Nordholm;

- **Cary Cassa** by Bruce and Kathryn Galton;

- **Shane Pdraig Mulvey** by Jim Mulvey;

- **Marie Kelly Roberts** by AT&T Wireless Services, Betsy Austin, Brian Boden, Daisy Bolden, Direct Marketers on Call, Ann Marie Gibbons, Robert Giangrande, Karin C. Mason, Rod and Alida McRae, Quinn Fable Advertising, and Dr. J. and S. Sanborn.

Thanks also to the Ferriero family for their generous donation in honor of **Danny Ferriero**.



(From left): Honorees Frank Stillinger, Joan Kirsten, Mayor Susan Hoag, Kathy Abbott, and GSWA President David Budd at the recent Great Swamp Watershed Association bi-annual volunteer recognition celebration.

## GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION HONORS VOLUNTEERS

Julia Somers, Executive Director of Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) announced that four volunteers were honored at their bi-annual Volunteer Recognition Party this spring. In addition, the Honorable Susan Hoag, Mayor of Chatham Township, was the recipient of GSWA's 2001 Abbie Fair Good Government Award.

According to Somers, the Abbie Fair Good Government Award is given to an elected official who has high ideals and puts "good government" into action.

The Honorable Abigail Fair, a founding trustee of GSWA, former Chatham Township Mayor and current Chatham Township Committeewoman says: "Sue Hoag is extremely hardworking, yet always cheerful. She's volunteered her time to keep her town residents informed by editing the local newsletter. She reached out to the volunteer firefighters and worked with them to bolster membership and obtain some retirement benefits. She rolled up her sleeves and wrote the town's valuable open space plan and is leading its acquisition efforts. Hoag is a genuine public servant, epitomizing good government in action and truly deserves this award."

Somers also said that Frank Stillinger of Chatham Township, Kathy Abbott of Chatham Township, Joan Kirsten of Chatham Township, and Angelina Monti of Madison were the recipients of this year's volunteer awards from GSWA. Selected from a group of nearly 100 volunteers, they were chosen because they have worked extremely hard and are indispensable to the Watershed Association in many ways.

"Frank Stillinger has worked tirelessly on GSWA's Conservation Area at LaBarre. He has done everything from designing and building bridges to physical labor as we restore the property. Kathy Abbott is editor of Swamp Watch, GSWA's bulletin on local issues and is Vice Chair of the Local Issues Committee. She puts in countless hours working to ensure that the information printed in our newsletter and posted on our website is accurate, informative, complete and fair. Joan Kirsten has volunteered in GSWA's office since we moved to 36 Main Street in 1998. We are extremely lucky to be the recipient of her organizational skills and help. Angelina Monti is one of our guardian angels and has worked many, many hours for more than six years and has never declined to help with a project." Somers continued, "We are indebted to all of our volunteers for their dedication. It is through their generosity that we're able to provide diverse and high quality programs."



## Bernards Township

### Update on Bernards Deer Control Proposal and Counter Proposal

Results were released in mid-June of a town-wide aerial survey of the township deer population. The survey showed 1,376 deer in the township, or 56 per square mile. The survey was conducted in March, prior to fawning season, when the herd can increase by as much as 40 percent. Township officials would like to get the herd population down to a post-fawning population of 495 deer by 2004 by combining sports hunting and sharpshooting efforts. Last year sports hunting killed about 270 deer. Sharpshooters would have to kill about 500 deer in order to achieve the first year goal of 770 of the deer reduction program proposed by the Bernards Township Deer Study Task Force. Bernards Citizens for Rational Deer Management members released a 68-page counterproposal, which supports pursuing contraception, roadside reflectors, and public education as components of a non-lethal deer management program. The group questions the accuracy of the recent aerial survey and the scientific basis for the task force study.

### Train Station Cell Tower Plan

Omnipoint Communications is seeking a use variance to erect a 100-foot high tower at the Basking Ridge train station, in place of an existing 60-foot high NJ Transit tower. The residentially zoned train station is located in a neighborhood, which includes a number of historic homes. Residents object that the tower will impact the character of the community and township officials hoped to persuade Omnipoint to become a tenant of a new tower proposed by Sprint Spectrum for the municipal complex. However Omnipoint claims that the municipal site would not cover a transmission gap along Interstate 287. The Board of Adjustment will continue hearing the application in September.

### Township Committee to Purchase Open Space Tract

In late July, the Bernards Township Committee passed an ordinance to acquire 4.68 acres of property off South Maple

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.

Avenue. The property, known as the "Crane Farm" will cost \$515,000, which will be appropriated from the township's Open Space Trust Fund. The property, which is adjacent to the county-owned Lord Stirling Stables, includes a house and a farm stand. Township officials have not yet finalized plans for utilization of the property, which had been identified by the Open Space Committee in their acquisition plan. - Ann Parsekian

## Bernardsville

### Bernardsville Settles Tree Dispute

In July, Bernardsville settled its dispute with property owner Alfred C. Eckert III, over the borough's tree-cutting ordinance. Eckert agreed to donate two trees to the borough and both parties agreed to dismiss all litigation. Last year Eckert was charged with violation of the borough's tree protection ordinance after a contractor failed to obtain a permit prior to removing a substantial number of trees from Eckert's estate. Eckert then filed suit in State Superior Court challenging the constitutionality of the law. Eckert claims that he has already planted hundreds of trees on his property and intends to plant 200 more.

The day before the settlement was announced, the borough council voted to vacate a portion of Young's Road to help preserve the privacy at the rear of Eckert's 38-acre estate. The Borough had intended

to sell the 1.7-acre portion of Young's Road to Eckert, but was unable to prove ownership of the road. The borough's case was not considered to be strong enough to go to Court to prove ownership. By vacating the property, the borough relinquishes the public's right to use Young's Road, enabling Eckert to claim title.

- Ann Parsekian

## Chatham

### Chatham Tries to Preserve Side Yard Size

In April, the Chatham Township Committee had introduced an amendment to preserve current yard sizes. The need for such an amendment arose from the current trend to redevelop existing lots to the maximum building envelope allowed by current building ordinances. The amendment proposed to increase side yard setbacks in the predominant half-acre R-3 zoning areas to a combined 40 feet, instead of the current 30 feet. The amendment did not pass, because of concerns that it would put too many existing homes out of conformance.

The Planning Board then decided to review the legislation in order to reintroduce it in a more palatable form. Such an amendment is designed to preserve Chatham's ability to absorb its storm water and recharge its aquifers, as well as preserve the rural aesthetic character of Chatham.

### Toxic Cleanup in Ground Water Continues at Kessler Site

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) reported in May that, since it began site remediation in March 2000, it has recovered an estimated 2,588 gallons of free phase hydrocarbons that were floating on the ground water under the site of the former Hickory Tree Garage. The layer of floating petrochemicals has been up to one foot thick at some of the monitoring wells, according to data taken from monitoring wells since 1995. The carcinogenic chemicals found to violate the NJDEP Groundwater Quality Standards are Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX), and

# LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL "HOT SPOTS"

Tertiary Butyl Alcohol (TBA).

The DEP reported in July that the floating free product was removed by a vapor extraction system, and that only a "sheen" was left. The next step is ground water extraction, which Hickory Tree expected to begin in August, after replacement of a burned out motor. The ground water is to be cleaned by a low profile air stripper and liquid phase granular activated carbon, and then discharged back into the aquifer on the Kessler property.

To detect the extent of the contaminant plume, Hickory Tree Garage recently installed a new monitoring well behind the Chatham Hill apartments at the intersection of Hickory Place and Green Village Road, which is approximately 500 feet from the site. A ground water sampling from this new well on March 30th, 2001 indicated no ground water contaminants had traveled to the well.

Yet MTBE has been detected at high levels at a closer monitoring well behind the apartment complex, and is therefore flowing under the apartments. The DEP says, however, that the MTBE "does not pose an immediate human health risk, since the contaminant level is too low to pose a vapor threat to the area and there is no ground water use within this area."

The DEP also stated, "the Great Swamp is not at risk from the discharges at the former Hickory Tree Garage site." This is in part due to the intervention of Chatham Township in 1997. The Township did not approve of the original DEP plan to discharge the treated ground water into the storm sewer.

## State Green Acres Grant Approved for Chatham

On Monday June 4, the NJ State Senate approved a Green Acres funding bill that grants Chatham Township \$500,000. The township expects to use some of its Green Acres funds by the end of this year to acquire three lots totaling 35 acres off Green Village Road. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation has held this open space for nearly a decade, with the purpose of eventually selling it to Chatham. The transaction will be a "bargain sale," in which the foundation sells the land, which has a total assessed value

of \$578,500, to the township for only \$300,000. Since the state Green Acres Grant pays up to 50 percent of the assessed value, or about \$290,000, all that Chatham would have to pay from its own budget would be about \$10,000, plus the costs the Foundation incurred from holding the property. - *Kathy Abbott*

## Harding Township

There is a common theme to each of the Harding matters reported on in this issue: each is now or was before the Board of Adjustment seeking, among other things, a use variance. Such a variance requires the applicant to prove both the affirmative and negative criteria, establishing why such a variance from today's zoning is warranted (i.e., proof the application is an improvement over the existing zoning consistent with the goals of the Master Plan and the property is particularly suited for the proposed use — affirmative; and negative — proof the application is not a detriment to the public good and does not impair the intent and purpose of the Zoning Plan.) Zoning is based on best achieving a community's Master Plan goals. Eight of Harding's eleven Master Plan goals focus on protecting the environment.

## Morris Animal Inn

In June, the BoA approved the application of the Morris Animal Inn to double in size. This non-conforming use is situated in a residential zone. Reasons cited by Board members for approving the use variance included the fact that the Animal Inn has a history of employing teenagers and the Township has a history of hosting dog shows. The Board did not find the commercial application to violate the goals of the Master Plan. The decision has been appealed to the Harding Township Committee by a group of neighbors and is expected to be heard some time in the late fall.

## Wildlife Preserves, Inc.

On December 27, 1957, the late Howard Bayne and Louise vanBeuren Bayne gave a 62-acre piece of land to Wildlife Preserves, Inc. It is located on Long Hill Road opposite the end of Pleas-

ant Plains Road, bordered on two sides by the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Mrs. Bayne was very involved in local efforts to establish a new national wildlife refuge in Great Swamp and it was the intent of the Baynes that their gift form part of the nascent Refuge. Wildlife Preserves, Inc. has held onto the property ever since and managed it as a sanctuary with no hunting permitted.

On August 16, Woodmont Builders LLC appeared before the Board of Adjustment seeking a use variance from present zoning to construct a large house plus ancillary structures on part of the property. Present zoning is farmland, recreation and conservation. The property has been tax exempt for many years. While the property is subdividable, subdivision has not been proposed at this time. Woodmont has a contract with Wildlife Preserves to purchase the property.

Letters have been received by the Board of Adjustment from members of the Bayne family stating that it was the donors' intent the property become part of the Refuge. This application has had its first hearing and there will be more to report in the future. It will be closely followed by GSWA.

## Darcy School

Also on August 16, the Darcy School's founder, Kristen Mullens, was invited to begin the school's application to Harding Township, which seeks to construct a new school on the site on Sand Spring Road. A number of variances from town land use ordinances (including a use variance) are needed for this application.

The school would accept 192-200 students Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade. The 24-acre site would be subdivided into two 6-acre residential sites served by a separate road, and a 12-acre site for the school with its own driveway off Sand Spring Road. One of the existing homes that sits close to the road would remain on the new school property.

Ms. Mullens explained the school's philosophy and why she believes it is a special place for its students. A meeting dedicated to this issue was scheduled for September 12. - *Julia Somers*

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[www.greatswamp.org](http://www.greatswamp.org) - 5



# Annual Report

July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001



## LOOKING BACK; LOOKING FORWARD

By David A. Budd, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

As we proceed through our 20th Anniversary year, I've spent some time looking back to our humble beginnings as well as looking ahead to our goals for the future. While we are proud that progress has been made, we know that much work remains to be done.

Incorporated on March 31, 1981, the Watershed Association has from the beginning been concerned with alerting its members, and the residents of local communities to the impact of poorly conceived development on the watershed's fragile ecosystem and consequently on Great Swamp itself. While the objective has remained constant, what has changed is how we have grown, in terms of sophistication and effectiveness. For the first ten years, the work of the organization was carried on solely by volunteers. In 1991, Lisa Butera, now the Association's Finance Director, became a Project Director and our very first paid employee. At the time, there were fewer than 500 association members and an annual operating budget of about \$5,000.00. Today we are fortunate to have six full time equivalent paid staff members, 65 wonderful volunteers, 22 Trustees and nearly 2,500 regular members. Our annual budget has grown a bit as well and now is approaching \$450,000.00 (an 89 fold increase), funded entirely through your generous charitable contributions, membership dues, foundation grants and income from our endowment. We sincerely thank you for your continuing support!

At our Annual Dinner on November 16, 2001 we will reflect (briefly) on some of the milestones and major accomplishments of the last 20 years. I hope you will make plans to attend this celebration, which will include recognition of deserving individuals, a silent auction (to assist in balancing that budget) and dancing to an excellent swing band. Some of you will be happy to learn that this year we will not feature a speaker.

### Land Acquisitions Growing

The most significant news of 2000/2001 is that we have continued to increase our land acquisition program

both directly and indirectly. On June 20, the Watershed Association participated in a closing on the 58-acre Jockey Hollow Top 6 property in Morris Township. This \$1.7 million purchase culminated an eight-year GSWA campaign to help to preserve this property. The property is steeply sloped and lies just above the headwaters of Great Brook, one of the five principal streams in the watershed. A Green Acres Grant from the NJDEP and Morris Township's Open Space Trust funded this landmark purchase.

Our Streamways preservation project was launched this spring and is already achieving some success. We have recently learned that we will receive, by bequest, an ecologically important 15-acre property in Bernardsville bordering headwaters of a stream that ultimately enters Great Swamp. Direct and indirect preservation of the land bordering streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands is a priority for GSWA.

Also new this year is a conservation easement donated to Great Swamp Watershed Association by Benjamin and Lois Wolkowitz on 1.35 acres of their Madison property. Although a relatively small piece, this is an important milestone for the borough of Madison and the surrounding watershed because it serves to protect a critically important glacial kettle hole that might otherwise have been eligible for subdivision. Since a conservation easement is recorded by deed and becomes part of the property, the land will be permanently protected from development and subdivision. We encourage all members to consider the benefits and merits of granting conservation easements and/or contributing sensitive lands to the Association. We will be happy to discuss the tax benefits that can accrue to donors as well as the enormous value such conservation permanently offers to the community at large.

Our acquisitions, of which the above are a part, bring our cumulative direct land ownership to 45.59 acres and our cumulative conservation easements to 3.85 acres. While these diminutive figures validate that we've made some



initial progress in directly protecting our watershed, I would like to see the watershed association continue to acquire land and conservation easements and I would like us to continue to actively assist other conservation entities in the acquisition of sensitive lands and easements. The remaining amount of critically important open space in the watershed is steadily being improved through development and as we all know, the amount of remaining open space is a fast disappearing finite quantity.

### Ecological Restoration

Under the direction of biologist Blaine Rothausser and other volunteers, our ecological restoration at the 23-acre GSWA Conservation and Education Area in Harding Township (on Tiger Lily Lane) is going strong. Our volunteers have spent countless hours studying the topography, biology, and unique characteristics of the site. Based on such studies a plan was evolved to clean up the site, remove invasive plants, clear trails and install nesting boxes. Our volunteers have erected deer exclosures and also planted over a thousand native plants representing 35 species. We estimate that regular watershed association volunteers, along with corporate, civic and religious groups, collectively spent 1,500 man-hours to accomplish the project. This spring, in celebration of the progress we've made on the Conservation and Education Area, we updated our website (<http://www.greatswamp.org>) to include a virtual tour of the site. It includes an interactive map on which you click on different areas of the site and (in effect) walk a swampy part of the watershed without actually getting your feet wet. If you own a computer and have Internet access, please visit. If you don't mind wet feet or own some decent boots, please visit the site in person.

As another way to bring learning to life, from September 2000 through June 2001, the Watershed Association made presentations demonstrating nonpoint source pollution to more than 750 students in towns in and around the watershed. The classroom presentations focus on a three-dimensional tabletop watershed model, which is an interactive educational tool that vividly illustrates how human actions affect the water quality of lakes, rivers and

streams. This same watershed model has been demonstrated to a number of officials of towns within the watershed and it is gratifying to see the light of comprehension glow as individuals understand for the first time what a watershed actually is. We will have the watershed model on display at the annual meeting so that our members and their guests can take turns farming, polluting or being a thunderstorm. You will be able to see first hand how a watershed works and you will understand why uncontrolled development represents a threat.

Thanks to the technical expertise of Project Director Karen Patterson, we have created the maps for Madison Borough's Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) update and sent data about our Geographic Information System (GIS) data to the NJDEP as part of a federal grant to New Jersey to improve the quality of, and access to, GIS data throughout the state. We are also nearing completion of our comprehensive buildout analysis of the Great Swamp Watershed and will be unveiling the results of this analysis at our anniversary celebration in November.

A review of the year would be incomplete without mentioning the historic Do the

Swamp Thing promotion. Numerous local environmental organizations worked together to celebrate earth month. The Great Swamp Watershed Association took a leadership role by coordinating sponsors like Recorder Newspapers and Kings Super Markets and published and distributed widely a consolidated calendar of events. It was a major undertaking that brought politicians, environmental organizations, and the public together to celebrate and enjoy the treasure that is the Great Swamp Watershed.

As usual it has been a fascinating year at the Watershed Association and we're looking forward to meeting the challenges of the coming year. Our 20th anniversary is a time of celebration and reflection and I sincerely hope that you'll join us at this year's Annual Dinner. Please put it on your calendar right now: November 16th 2001-The Great Swamp Watershed Association 20th Anniversary Celebration. We think that it will be the hot ticket of the week. Bring your dancing shoes and prepare to have some fun.



*(From left): Katey Erck, Olivia Shelton, teacher Lisbeth Decotiis, and Griffin Gannon modeling their Great Swamp Watershed Association Swamp thing t-shirts during a watershed model presentation at the Harding Township Public School this spring.*

# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

## ORGANIZATIONAL REVENUE

Contributions	\$228,394
Grants	
Restricted	101,151
Unrestricted	56,500
Interest Income	10,728
Miscellaneous	<u>13,519</u>
TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL REVENUE	\$410,292

## ENDOWMENT REPORT

Contributions	\$85,639
Market Value at 6/30/01	\$444,460

## EXPENSES

Programs	
Projects	\$125,727
Local Issues	102,953
Education	57,851
Land Conservation and Restoration	<u>54,542</u>
Total Program Expense	\$341,073
Management and General Development	48,322
	<u>46,108</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$435,503
NET LOSS	(\$25,211)

Unaudited statements. Audited statements available upon request.

## GSWA SUPPORTERS FOR 2001

### BERKELEY HEIGHTS

Mr. Leonard Berkowitz  
 Bruce & Eve Biegel  
 Mr. Walter L. Brown  
 Mr. Jeffrey Burnett  
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 Ms. Sue Ficken  
 Dan & Kathy Geary  
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### BERNARDS TWP. AND BERNARDSVILLE

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Mr. Sheldon Lipton  
Ms. Lorrie Losapio  
Ms. Doris Love  
Mr. Robert Love  
Ms. Louisa Lubiak  
Mr. Lester Luedecker  
Robert & Lois Lummer  
Ms. Mildred Mangas  
Ms. Florence McBride  
Mr. Tom McFadden  
Mr. Bernard J. McGovern

Mr. John F. McIlwain  
Carole Mead Davis & George G. Mead  
Mr. Peter A. Messina  
Mr. Philip C. Mezey  
Mary Lee Miller & Kate Mason  
Ms. Suzanne L. Miller  
Ms. Sue Ann Moeller  
Mr. David Moore  
Mrs. Patricia Moran  
Mr. Edmond N. Moriarty III  
Mr. Edward Morrison  
Ms. Evelyn S. Morton  
Mr. Jerry Nedelman  
Mrs. Robert A. Newhouse  
Ms. Jane Nogaki  
Ms. Karen A. Olden  
Ms. Donna M. Paino  
Ms. Barbara Palmer  
Natalie Anderson & Rob Panco  
Ms. Martha Parrish  
William & Joan Patterson  
Mr. Carl N. Pauli  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Petersen  
Ms. Eleanor M. Pfaff  
Mr. Edward Poplawski  
Ms. Natalie Powell  
Mr. John Raby  
Ms. Fern Relkin  
Mrs. Margaret S. Robbins  
Dr. Patricia Rossi  
Ms. Carole Roth-Sullivan  
Susan Rowley, MD  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Russo  
Ms. Cathryn Sabo Rotolo  
Ms. Barbara Sandargus  
Mr. William Santoriello  
P. D. & R. R. Savage  
Mr. Jay Schechter  
Kenneth & Yvonne Schley  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Sell  
Mr. & Dr. R. M. Senyk  
Ms. Barbara L. Simpson  
Mr. Paul Skettini  
Mr. Donald A. Smith  
Mr. J. Robert Starkey  
Dr. & Mrs. Patrick R. Thomas  
Mrs. Lois Thomsen  
Ms. Karen Timmons  
Mr. Ross Trube  
Bob Tucker & Joan Luckhardt  
Mr. Neil Upmeyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Vag  
Ms. Grace Vitelli  
Ms. Emily Voytek  
Mr. Curt Weaver  
Mr. Morton Weinstein  
Judith & Peddrick Weis  
Ms. Nancy L. Werber  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Wetzell  
Ms. Jane Whitcomb  
Mr. Roger Yockel



## Menza Gets Best Site Plan Award

The Ten Towns Committee's award for best site plan of the year went to Michael Menza (Menza & Beissel, Inc.) for an 8-lot subdivision in Long Hill Township. The merits of the project, currently under construction along the southern portion of Pleasant Plains Road, included best management practices for stormwater, significant conservation easements around every house, and preservation of an existing historical house on the site. The award was presented at the Ten Towns Committee's sixth anniversary meeting by Len Hamilton, vice-chair of the Ten Towns Committee, and Long Hill Committeewoman Suzanne Dapkins.

## Long Hill Focuses New Master Plan on Open Space

Long Hill has also launched its Master Plan 2002 project by re-examining its open space and recreation element. The new master plan is expected to set aside some significant parcels of land as open space, provide additional protection for historic roadways, strengthen the requirements for conservation easements, and give special attention to potential development within the Great Swamp watershed. - *Len Hamilton*

### Madison

## Shade Tree Debate Quietly Resolved

After nearly a year of sometimes boisterous debate involving citizens, members of the Madison Shade Tree Authority, the Mayor and the Borough Council, the controversy surrounding the renaming and re-alignment of Madison's all-volunteer shade tree organization was quietly resolved this spring. The Borough Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance drafted by the Shade Tree Authority (after the original one drafted by the Mayor was scrapped), renaming it the Shade Tree Management Board and keeping its organizational structure, scope of responsibilities and authority largely in place. The discussions focused attention on the exceptional work of the Authority, and brought to light that the program has received more than one grant from the

State of New Jersey. The State often references Madison's all-volunteer group as a model when assisting other municipalities to start a shade tree board.

## SEAMLESS

Several Madison residents, along with residents of Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, Morris Township, Hanover, Long Hill Township and other municipalities, continue to gather and share information regarding regional development in southeast Morris County. SEAMLESS (the SouthEast Morris League for Strategic Solutions) seeks to understand, share information and offer solutions to mitigate the negative impacts of regional development, including increased traffic and transportation congestion, environmental impacts - especially to wetlands, water quality and quantity, public safety, loss of open space, and other concerns. Commercial development approved in southeast Morris County during 1999 and 2000 exceeded 5 million square feet; and in the County as a whole, an astounding 11 million square feet has been approved. Among the planned activities of SEAMLESS in the fall are educational presentations to local groups and advocacy through public meetings of municipal bodies. Visit the website for more information: [www.rosenet.org/seamless](http://www.rosenet.org/seamless).

## Residential Subdivisions Troubling

Watershed members are closely watching three applications currently before the Madison Planning Board. Two involve subdivisions of large residential properties within the watershed with steep slopes and all three involve properties lying within prime aquifer recharge areas of the Borough. Testimony is continuing on the first, involving Block 4402 Lots 4 and 35 (Midwood Terrace and Green Avenue), and is expected to be extensive, as neighboring residents have secured professional experts to testify to already existing storm and ground water problems. The second application, Block 4903, Lot 10 (Dellwood Pkwy South), will likely begin in September. The third application before the Board involves Block 4501 Lot 3, a property on Garfield Avenue between Green Avenue and Green Village Road, owned by the Madison Baptist Church, which hopes to build a residence for an

assistant pastor. Neighbors downslope of that site have already voiced concern over increased storm water runoff and cite existing water problems on their properties.

## Madison's First Conservation Easement

Madison residents Ben and Lois Wolkowitz, have placed a conservation easement on their residential property, deeded to GSWA. The family has transferred the development rights for 1.35 acres of the 2.56 acre lot to the Association, ensuring that the aptly named Dellwood property, which includes heavily wooded dells from ancient glacial deposits, cannot be subdivided and/or developed by a subsequent owner. The Wolkowitz's desire was driven in large part by their concern about the continued encroachment of development in the few remaining wooded lots in the Borough.

## Madison Matters — Making an Impact

A citizen's group concerned with land use, open space, and character of the town, Madison Matters will celebrate its first anniversary this September. Founded by a group of residents alarmed by the nature and impact of zoning and planning variances, the group's leaders include Chris Hepburn and Judy Kroll, GSWA trustees and veterans of land use battles. The positive impact of MM became clear earlier this year when planning and zoning board members included almost all of the group's recommendations in their ordinance revisions. Particularly critical are storm water and steep slope revisions, which have been discussed informally for some time but have yet to be adopted by the Borough. Visit the website at [www.madisonmatters.org](http://www.madisonmatters.org). — *Judy Kroll*

### Mendham Township

## Girl Scout Village

The Morris Area Girl Scouts Council still has not presented plans to Mendham Township for its proposed new village-style recreation facility. In their spring 2001 newsletter, MAGSC announced that effective June 28, 2001 Susan A. Harwood, Chief Executive Officer, was leaving them after more than 15 years of service. Since that announcement, Shirley Valentine has been hired as Interim Executive Director. — *Julia Somers*

# 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.

## October

- 14 **Survival Basics.** 2-4 p.m. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Chatham. Learn how to keep yourself safe, if you are lost in the woods. Preregister. 973.635.6629.
- 14 **Take a History Hike** at Jockey Hollow, 1 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 20 **Learn how apple butter is made** at Wick House, 1-4 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 27 **Join a park guide and learn about the personal and military history of some of America's first generals.** Museum, Morristown Headquarters, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 28 **Introductory Ride,** Lord Stirling Stables. One hour ride through trails at Lord Stirling Park. Call stables for times and details. 908.766.5955.
- 28 **Learn about folk art, superstitions, Halloween, ghosts, and important people of 18th century Morristown** in a tour of the graveyard of the Presbyterian Church on the Green, 2 p.m. 973.543.4030.

## November

- 3 **Winter Hiking in New Jersey** by author and explorer, Arline Zatz,. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 2 p.m. 973.635.6629.
- 3 **Watch candles being made** at the Wick Farm, 1-4 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 10/24 **Discover the role of women and children** who assisted soldiers with the daily chores of camp life at Jockey Hollow, 1:30-3:30 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 11 **A veteran of the American Revolution returns to tell stories** about his life as an enlisted man in Washington's Army. Museum, Morristown Headquarters, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 16 **Annual Dinner, GSWA.** Dinner, dancing, silent auction, at the Westin Hotel. Reservations required. 973.966.1900.
- 17 **Endangered species.** Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Larry Feeley from the DEP will present a slide discussion about NJ's endangered species. Free. Open to all. 973.635.6629.
- 25 **Learn about the role of Native Americans in the Revolutionary War.** Ford Mansion tour, 1,2,3, and 4 p.m. 973.543.4030.

## December

- Ongoing. **Gingerbread Wonderland** Hagerty Education Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Display of holiday gingerbread houses designed by adults, children, families, and youth groups. 973.631.5151.
- 1/2 Somerset County Park. Commission, Lord Stirling Stables. Winter Holiday Festival. Free admission-hay rides, pony rides, decorate ornaments, Gingerbread Barn and Horse contest. 908-766-5955.
- 7-16 Somerset County Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Over 50 trees decorated by community groups and individuals, silent auction, musical performances. Call for details. 908-766-2489.
- 8 **Music from an 18th Century Christmas.** Morristown Headquarters. 7:30 p.m. 973.543.4030.
- 27 **Eagle Watch.** Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Join the OEC staff for a van trip to the Delaware River to look for the Bald Eagle. Bring a lunch, binoculars, and warm clothing \$20.00. Pre-register. 973.635.6629.

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 Swamp Watch - 4  
 Annual Report - 7

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 New Vernon, NJ 07976  
 Permit #2

Great Swamp Watershed  
 Association  
 Post Office Box 300  
 New Vernon, NJ 07976