



Great Swamp Watershed Association

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Protecting our waters and our land for more than 30 years

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2013

An American River: From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey's Passaic

Author Mary Bruno recounts her kayaking journey down the length of the Passaic River

Basking Ridge, NJ—New Jersey's Passaic River rises in the near-pristine wetlands of the Great Swamp Watershed and ends in a federal Superfund site. Author Mary Bruno has kayaked its length in an effort to discover what happened to her hometown river.

On Monday, **March 18 at 7:00 p.m.**, the **Great Swamp Watershed Association** and the **Somerset County Park Commission** will host an evening of discussion and reflection on the Passaic and the memoir Mary wrote about her journey. The event will take place at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center located at 190 Stirling Road in Basking Ridge, NJ.

The book, *An American River: From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey's Passaic*, invites detours into the river's flood-prone natural history, New Jersey's unique geology, the corrupt practices of the Newark chemical plant that produced Agent Orange and poisoned the river with dioxin, and into the lives of an unforgettable cast of characters who have lived and worked along the Passaic and who are trying, even now, to save it. Part natural history, part personal history, part rollicking adventure, the book is a narrative meditation on the wonder of nature, the enduring ties of family, and the power of water and loss.

Mary Bruno is a former ecological researcher turned writer who has covered a wide variety of issues, from sports and science to art and healthcare, for publications like Newsweek, the Seattle Weekly, and New York Woman Magazine. She has edited and produced online content for ABCNEWS.com, filled the role of Executive Editor at Grist magazine, and was the founding editor of MrShowBiz.com. She also has served in leadership positions at OnHealth.com and HealthTrack.com. Mary currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of Crosscut.com, a Pacific Northwest news site.

This is a free event. Registration is appreciated, but not required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500 x22. For more information about the Somerset County Environmental Education Center, please call 908-766-2489. Voluntary donations to the Great Swamp Watershed Association are sincerely appreciated.

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What: An American River: From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey's Passaic

Where: Somerset County Environmental Education Center, 190 Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, NJ

When: Monday, March 18, doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: Free. Voluntary donations are appreciated.

RSVP: Please register online at www.GreatSwamp.org (not required).

Contact: Steve Reynolds, Director of Communications, sreynolds@greatswamp.org, 973-538-3500 x21 —OR—
Somerset County Environmental Education Center, 908-766-2489

About the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the water and land of the 36,000-acre watershed region in New Jersey's Morris and Somerset counties. We work to maintain the beauty and health of our open space, and to monitor and protect five streams: Loantaka Brook, Great Brook, Primrose Brook, Black Brook, and the Upper Passaic—which feed into the Passaic River and provide drinking water to more than a million people.

About the Somerset County Environmental Education Center. The Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center is located within Lord Stirling Park, in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township, and is nestled within 425 acres of the western portion of the Great Swamp Basin of the Passaic River. The variety of habitats of floodplains, swamps, rivers, intermittent streams, marshes, meadows, and natural and man-made ponds, fields, and forests provide homes for diverse plant and animal populations in this environmentally sensitive park. All are within walking distances of the multi-faceted building. The Great Swamp Exhibit, a swamp vivarium, and an environmentally based library are located within the Center itself.