



Great Swamp Watershed Association

P.O. Box 300 • New Vernon, NJ 07976

(973) 538-3500 • www.GreatSwamp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Organizations, Businesses Unite To Produce The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt

Far-ranging geography game promotes awareness of nature, culture, history in northern New Jersey.

Morristown, NJ—On May 11, starting at 9:00 a.m., 18 area organizations and businesses will work together to present The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt—a free, outdoor event created by the Great Swamp Watershed Association, and designed to promote greater public awareness of some of the most significant natural, cultural, and historical locations found in northern New Jersey.

Part game and part celebration, The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt takes participants on a 40-mile adventure through the state's Great Swamp Watershed region. This is the place where the mighty Passaic River rises, where George Washington's troops survived the coldest winter of the Revolutionary War, where the U.S. government created the first federally-designated wilderness area east of the Mississippi, and where many seriously injured wild birds have found sanctuary and healing.

Scavengers spend a fun-filled day hunting down special tokens from more than 15 sites of interest throughout the watershed. Featured locations include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the National Park Service's Morristown National Historical Park, Morris County Park Commission's Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Somerset County Park Commission's Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park, New Jersey Audubon's Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, The Raptor Trust, Harding Land Trust's Primrose Farms, the Great Swamp Watershed Association's Conservation Management Area, the Friends of the Great Swamp's Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, Millington Gorge, Meyersville Café, and the Rolling Knolls Superfund site.

"What a great event," said Jenny Gaus-Myers, superintendent of environmental education at the Morris County Park Commission. "We love being part of the scavenger hunt and introducing lots of new visitors to our center and the wonders of the Great Swamp Watershed."

Cathy Schrein, manager of Somerset County Park Commission's Environmental Science Department, echoed Gaus-Myers's sentiment, adding: "Events like The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt and the Somerset County Environmental Education Center's Swamp Search are such fun ways for the public to learn more about their immediate environment and to enjoy the outdoors."

Protecting our waters and our land for more than 30 years

Geocaching enthusiasts will experience twice the fun at The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt by logging special caches that have been carefully hidden at each location by members of Northern New Jersey Cachers (NNJC.org)—one of the nation’s most respected geocaching organizations.

“NNJC has partnered with GSWA for a number of years, from boardwalk construction and kiosk building, to presenting a spooky Halloween hike,” said John Neale, president of NNJC. “Like geocaching, The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt is another great example of getting folks together to enjoy the outdoors and learn about their local parks.”

At 4:00 p.m., scavengers will gather at Loantaka Brook Reservation’s Kitchell Pond Pavilion (Morris Township) where they will be treated to a free picnic barbeque and will be able to exchange the tokens they collect for an opportunity to win one of several top-notch prizes.

This year’s prizes include premium outdoor gear and gift certificates to notable area restaurants donated by event sponsors at Investors Bank of Madison, Morris Tap and Grill in Randolph, Meyersville Café in Long Hill Township, and Shanghai Jazz Restaurant and Bar in Madison. Additional prizes and giveaways will be supplied by Blue Ridge Mountain Sports in Madison, Smarties Candy Company of Union Township, and other event partners.

“We want people to know that there is so much out there to see and learn in the Great Swamp,” said Liz Adinaro, head of marketing and media for Morris Tap and Grill. “We believe in supporting our community, as the community gives back to us by visiting our restaurant.”

Food for the Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt Picnic will be donated by event sponsors at Whole Foods Market Rose City (Madison), and Costco East Hanover. Grills and buffet tables will be staffed by the Great Swamp Watershed Association and Northern New Jersey Cachers.

Scavenger hunters who choose to join the afternoon picnic are welcome to contribute a covered side dish to share with the rest of the group. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, and an additional healthy main dish will be offered free of charge while supplies last.

Visit ***GreatSwamp.org*** or call **973-538-3500 x22** for more complete information about The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt, including start time and location, a basic description of rules, and picnic details. *Online registration is free and recommended.* Donations in support of the event are sincerely appreciated and may be made at time of registration or during the event at Kitchell Pond Pavilion.

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Contact: Steve Reynolds, Director of Communications, sreynolds@greatswamp.org, 973-538-3500 x21.

For planning purposes. The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt takes place on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at Loantaka Brook Reservation’s Kitchell Pond Pavilion located at 75 Kitchell Road, Morristown, NJ. Participants begin the game by visiting the pavilion and obtaining an official Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt Clue Kit—complete with rules, directions, and token locations—any time after 9:00 a.m. Participants may complete as much (or as little) of the scavenger hunt as desired between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. In order to be eligible for prizes, participants must

return their collected tokens to scavenger hunt staff at Kitchell Pond Pavilion by 4:00 p.m. Prize winners will be announced at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Barbecuing for The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt Picnic will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. around Kitchell Pond Pavilion. Picnickers are advised to bring their own outdoor seating (blankets, folding chairs, etc.). Picnickers contributing to the covered dish buffet should bring appropriate serving utensils and consult a Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt staff member before placing items on the buffet table.

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 waters 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 Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt Sponsors. Sponsors for the 2013 Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt include Investors Bank (Madison Branch), Morris Tap & Grill (Randolph), Meyersville Café, Shanghai Jazz Restaurant and Bar (Madison), Whole Foods Market Rose City (Madison), and Costco (East Hanover).

About the Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt Partners. Partner organizations for the 2013 Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt include the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Harding Land Trust, the Morris County Park Commission, the National Park Service, the New Jersey Audubon Society, Northern New Jersey Catchers, The Raptor Trust, the Somerset County Park Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.