

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 11, 2009, 9:30 am

Attendees: Laura Costello, Kelley Curran, Frank Stillinger, Robin Timmons and Barbara Wefing

Guests: Chris Heckman and Katherine Perri (2009 GSWA Summer interns)
Mary (Morristown National Historical Park)

Minutes of the previous meeting held May 7, 2009 were distributed via email as well as at the meeting and approved.

A draft of the Silver Brook Subwatershed Management/Restoration Plan is expected to be received from AKRF, Inc. within the next two weeks. GSWA will review and finalize it. The report will detail several potential stream restoration projects in the Silver Brook Subwatershed at which point funding sources will be sought to implement the projects.

New ISCO automatic storm sampling units have been ordered by the Ten Towns Committee's environmental consultant, Princeton Hydro. All five units (one on each feeder stream) will be replaced with the new units. GSWA plans to be involved with the installation. We are still waiting for the final water quality monitoring program report from Princeton Hydro.

Frank provided a report on the success of this year's BioBlitz event which took place at the Refuge on Friday and Saturday, May 15-16. Over 600 species were identified by specialized scientists during the 24-hour survey.

The annual stream cleanup event was held at Loantaka Brook Reservation this past Saturday. Approximately 20 local residents collected 20 bags of trash from the pond, stream, and surrounding areas. As usual, bottles and cans comprised the bulk of the trash. Among the other finds were several balls (basketball, softballs, etc), one tire, and a trash can lid.

GSWA's annual volunteer appreciation event was held on Friday, June 5th at GSWA headquarters. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the event needed to be held indoors. The event was well-attended. Congratulations to Stream Team volunteers Laura Costello and Ruth Ryan on receiving awards for their dedication and countless hours of service.

Several ideas were offered up for inventive Silent Auction items including:

- Kayak tour of the Passaic River
- Free room painting or power washing service
- Rain gauges

- Items from Eastern National (company that runs the bookshops for the National Park Service)
- Photography - portraits
- GPS unit
- Decorative heron sculptures
- Push mower
- Rain Barrel
- Rain Garden installation
- A day with a NPS Ranger

A suggestion was also made to have a section at the auction designated for “slightly used” items that would be donated by GSWA members.

A long list of summer intern projects has been drafted. Let’s hope Katherine and Chris can get to them all!

Upcoming field work includes:

- Watershed-wide visual stream assessments: Due by June 30
- Loantaka Brook monitoring: Laura will arrange take interns to the sites so that they can continue the monitoring over the summer months
- Great Brook sampling: Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 12th)

Refer to GSWA’s website for additional information on upcoming public educational programs.

GSWA is looking to go from three newsletters per year down to two as a cost savings. Content for the Fall/Winter newsletter will be due mid-August. Frank is working on an article focused on nitrate contamination and blue baby syndrome.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd at 9:30 am. Please note that there will not be a meeting in the months of July and August. Have a wonderful summer!!

Respectfully submitted by:
Kelley Curran