

Annual Gala To Honor Top Environmental Advocates

The Great Swamp Watershed Association will honor three stellar individuals and one terrific corporation committed to protecting our local New Jersey environment at our **Gala 2007 on Friday, November 2**, at The Hamilton Park Hotel and Conference Center in Florham Park.

"This star-studded evening is designed to raise critical funds for our 26-year-old non-profit organization which serves as the watchdog of the watershed region, protecting water and the places you love," said Jean Rich of Morristown, chair of the event.

This year's stellar honorees include:

- **Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen**
- **Elizabeth Parker, Recorder Community Newspapers**
- **R. Edwin Selover, PSEG**
- **Benjamin Spinelli, former member, NJ Highlands Council & former mayor of Chester Township**



Frelinghuysen



Selover



Parker



Spinelli

"We are thrilled to spotlight the wonderful work being done by our honorees on behalf of the environment," said Executive Director Joan G. Fischer. "Our honorees work in vastly divergent arenas – politics, media, energy supplier and municipal government – yet each effectively utilize their positions to help protect our natural resources."

The evening's festivities, beginning at 6:30 p.m., will include an amazing silent auction, a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a fabulous dessert. Tickets are \$125.

For more information about purchasing tickets, sponsoring the event or placing an ad in the Gala Commemorative Journal, please call Arlene Klemow, development director, at (973) 538-3500, ext. 18. 🌲

BioBlitz Spotlights Critical Environmental Changes

The Great Swamp Watershed Association's first bi-annual BioBlitz, a 24-hour snapshot biological survey held recently at the Loantaka Brook Reservation, provided invaluable information and helped highlight GSWA's role as the watchdog of the watershed.

Co-sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission, the BioBlitz drew a team of 25 scientists and nearly 100 concerned citizens and environmental educators to comb the park for anything that swims, walks, flies, grows or crawls. Unfortunately, the first event of its kind in the area revealed a few unwelcome visitors.

"We were pleased that most types of living things were represented in our count of 440 species," said Hazel England, GSWA's director of outreach and education and the event organizer. "But we also saw many introduced species which can disrupt the ecology because they can be very aggressive."

GSWA's BioBlitz determined that native species of wild-flowers, shrubs, witch hazel and dogwoods are being threatened by invasive species such as Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese stilt grass, Japanese knotweed and Oriental bittersweet. These durable and persistent plants grow quickly and can eventually displace the native plants.

"In a pristine environment we can expect about 250 species of native plants," said England. "But what we discovered during the GSWA BioBlitz is that about a half dozen invasive plants are threatening more than 100 native plants."

The BioBlitz also focused attention on the fact that a significant number of household pets such as goldfish, koi and carp are lurking at the bottom of Loantaka Brook. "These domestic fish, most likely released into the stream by children, are bottom-feeders. They stir up the bottom so much that they

(Continued on next page)

BioBlitz *(continued from previous page)*

make the stream uninhabitable for the other species,” said England. “The biggest problem, however, lies in the stream’s worsening water quality. As the water quality degrades, native fish become scarce, and these aquarium species prosper because they can eat algae and tolerate a lack of oxygen.”

GSWA’s BioBlitz did give participants reasons to be optimistic. A significant number of migratory birds were spotted, indicating that the park still offers healthy vegetation and an abundance of insects.

“We were thrilled with the level of interest our first BioBlitz engendered,” said England. “We hope local schools will continue to conduct their own mini-BioBlitz events to encourage children to become more involved in the environment. For many of residents, biodiversity is a concept they associate with rainforests or somewhere far away. We want to get locals excited about the biodiversity in their own backyard.”

Warmest thanks to the scientists from a wide variety of public and private institutions who made this important environmental education event possible. Thank you also to our friends at the Morris County Parks Commission: Jenny Gaus, Geoff Knapp, and Douglas Vorolieff. Hats off to the entire BioBlitz committee, Frank Stillinger - chair, Kelley Curran, Hazel England, Deb Appruzzese, Wes Boyce, Ann Campbell, Cathie Coultas, Terry Dyben, Steve Gruber, Pam Harding,



NJ Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries Biologists Bob Papson and Jim Hartobey identify species they have electroshocked at the GSWA BioBlitz.

Ned Kirby, Chris MacDonald, Jim MacDonald, Pat Moody, Blaine Rothausen, Lisa Stevens, and Mark Strickland.

Thank you to our BioBlitz sponsors: Gil Gaus Graphic Design, High Gear Cyclery in Stirling, Kings Supermarket, Richie’s Country Deli in Morristown, and Whole Foods Market. 🌿

GSWA Selected as Site for Statewide Art Installation on the Environment

It’s all about the trees. Whether she is promoting planting or calling attention to the devastation of clear-cutting, Pat Brentano, a New Jersey artist and advocate for the natural world, is using her artwork and locations throughout the state to urge the public to do something about the trees. The Great Swamp Watershed Association’s New Vernon office has been selected as a site for the innovative statewide art installation.

In conjunction with her solo drawing show, which opened at the Monmouth Museum in September, Brentano’s ten 4’ x 5’ painted wooden sculpture installations are dedicated to re-greening the entryways into New Jersey.

“When New Jersey residents drink clean water and enjoy open spaces they don’t always think about the individuals who are responsible for protecting and preserving these gifts,” said Brentano. “By placing a piece from my “Missing Tree Installation” on the Great Swamp Watershed Association’s front yard I hope to shine a spotlight on their efforts.”

Along with GSWA, Brentano’s sculptures have been placed at The Friends of the Great Swamp Refuge, Shade Tree Management Board in Madison, Rutgers University, The Institute for Women’s Leadership, The Raptor Trust, Trailside Nature and Science Center, Mindowaskin Park in Westfield, The Monmouth Museum, and Windsor Gallery. A map showing the locations

of each sculpture will be available at the Museum.

The destruction of mature trees in her Westfield neighborhood filled Brentano with such sorrow that it inspired her latest work. Pat drew each tree cut-out from direct observation. Hugh Goodspeed, a master carpenter and preservationist, cut the wood and assisted in the installation. “The dark negative cut-out becomes a positive in contrast to the painted surface calling attention to the gesture and essence of the missing tree,” said Brentano. “Though the color on the sculptures changes in relation to the time of day and position of the viewer, they are ultimately a reminder of the permanence of our actions.” 🌿

ACROSS THE WATERSHED is a publication of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. GSWA is a membership supported non-profit organization that protects the water you drink and the places you love. We preserve the natural beauty and promote the health of the local environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

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ACROSS THE WATERSHED

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Joan Fischer
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Frank Stillinger

From the Desk of the Executive Director

by Joan G. Fischer



I would like to take this opportunity to invite each and every one of you to “Gala 2007,” GSWA’s annual fund-raising event. Please join the GSWA Board, staff and me on Friday, November 2nd at the lovely Hamilton Park Hotel and Conference Center when we will tip our hats to three fabulous individuals and one terrific corporation who are committed to protecting our local New Jersey environment. Attending our Gala is a very enjoyable way of showing your support for GSWA. I personally love this fun and exciting event because it gives me the opportunity to meet and personally thank each of you for your support. You make it possible for GSWA to do the critical work we do. Whether you are a long-time member and supporter, or brand new to our ranks, I’d like you to know how truly grateful we are for your support and commitment to helping us protect the water you drink and the places you love.

I look forward to seeing you and celebrating with you on November 2. I’ve heard first-hand that the cocktails and hors d’oeuvres can’t be beat and the silent auction items are amazing!

Joan G. Fischer

We Did It Again!

The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) has won an important battle to protect the local environment. On July 16 the Bernardsville Board of Adjustment voted to deny Weichert Realtors’ application to expand its Route 202 site. GSWA was instrumental in making this happen.

We committed valuable scant resources to this effort — drawing heavily on our membership funds — to oppose Weichert’s plan because it called for too much development, and too little attention to the resulting stormwater runoff. As proposed, the plan would have increased flooding in local residents’ yards and sent untreated, unthrottled and unfiltered stormwater into the Great Swamp.

Our mission is to protect the water you drink and the places you love. GSWA will keep working to ensure that all development proposals for Bernardsville’s portion of Route 202 help to correct, rather than worsen, on-site runoff problems. But we can’t do it without your help.

Thank you to all of our members...and please continue to support us as we fight to protect your local environment. If you’re not yet a member, please join GSWA today!

Watershed Watch – Environmental Hot Spots

As part of our mission to protect the water you drink and the places you love, GSWA advocates for responsible development practices and promotes intelligent land use. We work to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and legislation at all levels of the government. Here are some areas we are currently focusing on:

Bernardsville

On July 16 the Bernardsville Board of Adjustment voted to deny Weichert Realtors' application to expand its Route 202 site. GSWA was instrumental in making this happen.

Weichert's plan called for too much development and too little attention to the resulting stormwater runoff. As proposed, the plan would have increased flooding in local residents' yards and sent untreated, unthrottled and unfiltered stormwater into the Great Swamp. GSWA will continue working to ensure that all development proposals for Bernardsville's portion of Route 202 help to correct, rather than worsen, on-site runoff pollution. We are actively opposing Bernardsville Center's site plan application for expansion, and are closely monitoring the high school's artificial turf issues, since they both will have impact on Penn's Brook as it flows into the Great Swamp.

Chatham Township

Rolling Knolls Superfund site: The USEPA has approved the Remedial Investigation Work Plan for the Rolling Knolls Landfill. Fieldwork, consisting of test pit excavation was scheduled to begin the week of July 23, 2007. GSWA will be participating in ongoing meetings of federal, state, and local stakeholders. Additional information about the site status may be found at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0200542#CleanupProgr>.

Chatham Township

RexCorp has filed a Preliminary and Final site plan to install a sanitary sewer pump station and related facilities, which are part of a prior agreement reached between the town and the developer in order to avoid costly litigation. This agreement also provided for construction of additional office space, however, no site plans for the commercial development have been filed. GSWA will monitor site plans as they are filed, in order to limit environmental impacts to the greatest extent possible.

Harding Township

Developers in Harding Township would like to build what they have called an environmentally responsible residential development, which they claim would utilize many "green building" techniques, create and preserve open space and not mar the view shed. However, in order to do so, Harding would need to enact a cluster ordinance, and would need to consider some amount of increased density. GSWA has attended public information sessions about this matter, and has invited the developers to our land use committee meetings so that we can learn as much as possible about the water and land use implications and effects of the developers' proposals. GSWA's goal for any proposed development is that it be truly a benefit to the environment, not just an excuse for high density housing.

Long Hill Township

GSWA has attended meetings and given guidance to township residents about the importance of the Master Planning process as it relates to the Meyersville Circle area and the township as a whole. We will continue to offer advice as requested by residents and town committees.

Morristown

On August 14th, the Morristown Town Council passed by a 5-1 margin an ordinance that authorizes the Town to place a public question on the ballot in November asking voters to approve an open space tax assessment of \$0.01 tax on \$100 of assessed value. Morristown is one of only a handful of towns in Morris County that does not have an open space tax. The referendum would raise over \$200,000 per year in open space funds, which could be used to help fund the acquisition, and preservation of open space in Morristown. GSWA worked with Morristown's Environmental Commission in getting the Council to authorize the referendum, and will help them educate the public about the necessity for the open space tax.

Morris Township

GSWA's motion to intervene in the Abby Woods administrative appeal is still pending.

Workshops for Educators

Great Swamp Watershed Association is facilitating several interesting and useful workshops for K-12 formal and non-formal educators. Educators will experience activities they can use back in the classroom or Nature Center to teach across the educational curriculum. The workshops are hands on, led by Hazel England, an experienced Naturalist educator, and provide participants with activity guides for each workshop. The 6-hour workshops are offered at little or minimal cost, and often include breakfast. They confer 6 NJDOE professional development credits too! For more information call Hazel, director of outreach and education, (973) 538-3500 ext 20, hazele@greatswamp.org or contact workshop locations directly to register.

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Schoolyard Habitat Enhancement Workshop

Morris County Outdoor Education Center
Chatham (973) 635-9391

Enhancing your school ground creates habitat for wildlife, can help improve water quality, and offers students areas to study without costly field trips. You don't need a country setting for habitat enhancement to work, and to offer teaching opportunities! Learn about the process of creating an outdoor place for learning including mapping, site design, and correlation to your existing curriculum. This workshop suited for K-12 educators in all subject areas. Start your planning this fall to be ready to make changes to your school site in the spring. Leave armed with ideas for your own site. This program will spend some time outside. Cost: \$10, including breakfast.

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Healthy Waters Healthy People Workshop

Trailside Nature Center
Watchung Reservation (908) 789-3670

The goal of this workshop is to encourage investigation of the connections between water quality, the environment and human health. This is an advanced workshop best suited for educators teaching grades 6-12, who have taken a Project WET workshop and who have basic water chemistry background. Participants receive 6 NJDOE professional development credits. Morning refreshments served. Cost \$10, including curriculum guide. This program will spend some time outside, so please dress appropriately for the weather.

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Project WILD Workshop

Trailside Nature Center
Watchung Reservation (908) 789-3670

Go WILD about learning, as you experience one of the leading supplemental environmental education curricula. The Project WILD activity guide contains hands-on activities that K-12 teachers across the curriculum can use to teach about wildlife and natural resources. The activities take students from awareness to action, and are designed to be incorporated into most major subject areas, strengthening basic skills while teaching existing curricula. Activities can be used to meet state standards for core course proficiencies. Best of all, the activities are enjoyable and educational. Cost: \$25, including breakfast.

Friday, February 7, 2008, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Project Wet Workshop

GSWA Headquarters
568 Tempe Wick Road Morristown (973) 538-3500 ext. 20

The workshop is an interdisciplinary, supplemental water education program for formal and non-formal educators, K-12. It is hands-on, action packed and informative! Educators will learn by doing, experiencing activities they can use to teach all kinds of water concepts from the water cycle, to water properties, aquatic ecosystems, and water pollution prevention. Participants will receive the curriculum and activity guide. The guide is a collection of innovative, water-related activities that are hands-on, easy to use and incorporate a variety of educational formats. Cost: \$25, including breakfast.

Wednesday, April 30, 2007

Wonders of Wetlands Workshop

Morris County Outdoor Education Center
Chatham (973) 635-9391

WOW is an instructional guide for educators that provides a resourceful and creative collection of wetland activities, information, and ideas. WOW! includes: over 50 hands-on multidisciplinary activities in lesson plan format, extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects, and a wetlands resource guide. WOW! has been called "The most comprehensive introduction to wetland issues and definitions." Great for educators who have access to, or are considering creating their own wetland site. Cost: \$20, including breakfast.

Welcome 2007 New Members

Special thanks to the following people and organizations who became members of GSWA this year (as of August 31, 2007):

Aismara Abreu, Chatham, NJ
Paul Acomb, Chatham, NJ
William Ahmer, Flanders, NJ
Steve Alderson, Morristown, NJ
William Allen, Basking Ridge, NJ
Richard D. Asdourian Hampton, NJ
Adrienne Petite Auerbach, Bernardsville, NJ
Stephen Bagen, Brookside, NJ
Jessie Bagger, Bernardsville, NJ
Rajat Bannerji, Morristown, NJ
Samir Bannerji, Morristown, NJ
Melissa Barnes, Madison, NJ
John A. Barry, New Vernon, NJ
Timothy Bart, Stirling, NJ
Judith Bebout, Stockton, NJ
Raymond Beegle, Chatham, NJ
Matthew Beland, Madison, NJ
Barbara Bennett, Chatham, NJ
Elaine Bennett, Chatham, NJ
Raul J. Biancardi, Morristown, NJ
George E. Boncelet, Morristown, NJ
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Carolyn Brady, Randolph, NJ
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John & Laurie Broderick, Bernardsville, NJ
Betsy Brotman, Berkeley Heights, NJ
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Nancy E. Byrnes, Madison, NJ
Suzanne Callen, Chatham, NJ
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Chip Carver, Morristown, NJ
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Barry Childs, Morristown, NJ
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Paul Clarke, Chatham, NJ
Mary Cobb, Morristown, NJ
Patricia S. Collington, Chatham, NJ

Lynne T. Combs, Millington, NJ
James A. Conlin, Morristown, NJ
John Connor, Millington, NJ
Andrea Conturbia, Green Village, NJ
James Cox, Green Village, NJ
Mark Cozin, Bernardsville, NJ
Howard Craig, Madison, NJ
Susan Dlugosz, Chatham, NJ
Brian M. Doherty, Madison, NJ
Catherine Doherty, Teaneck, NJ
Evelyn Drake, Bernardsville, NJ
Adam Drobot, Bernardsville, NJ
Norma Duggan, Chatham, NJ
Philip Dumont, Cranbury, NJ
Terry Dyben, Basking Ridge, NJ
Joyce Eagles, Bedminster, NJ
Richard Eckes, Madison, NJ
Clarke Edgar, Chatham, NJ
Roger Edwards, Gillette, NJ
Tony Ehinger, Morristown, NJ
Matthew Finn, Morristown, NJ
Barry Fisher, Morristown, NJ
Charles K. Friedman, Gillette, NJ
Susan Fuller, Green Village, NJ
John J. Galiher, Chatham, NJ
Thomas Martin Gallo, Morris Plains, NJ
Steven & Elizabeth Galpin, Bernardsville, NJ
Harry Galtieri, Morristown, NJ
Laurie Gaulke, Gillette, NJ
Daniel Gepford, Madison, NJ
Tom Ghiretti, Stirling, NJ
James L. Gilbert, Chatham, NJ
Anne Glasser, Westfield, NJ
Peter & Patty Goldsmith, Millington, NJ
Sean & Suzanne Graham, Madison, NJ
Jeff Greenberg, Morristown, NJ
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Melinda Grosskopf, Gillette, NJ
Bruce Groves, Madison, NJ
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Michael Gutwillig, Morristown, NJ
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Linda S. Habgood, Westfield, NJ
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Susan Harrison, Millington, NJ
Hilary Hegener, New Vernon, NJ
Lee Henig-Elona, Gillette, NJ
Elizabeth Henne, Chatham, NJ

Oscar Heuttner, Chatham, NJ
Margaret Heyman, Warren, NJ
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Crystal Huff, Morristown, NJ
Malcolm Hutchison, Millington, NJ
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Lisa Jacob, Morristown, NJ
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Ken Kappy, Chatham, NJ
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Paul Kleinheider, Chatham, NJ
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Donna Lee Madison, Rahway, NJ
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Susan Massengill, Morristown, NJ
Peter Mastrantuono, Morristown, NJ
Wendy Mathews, Chatham, NJ
Amy K. Matlins, Morristown, NJ
Richard E. Matsil, Millington, NJ

Welcome 2007 New Members (cont'd)

Charles Mayo, Morristown, NJ
Michael J. Mazzola, Chatham, NJ
Cindy McCollum, Morristown, NJ
Meanne McHugh, Chatham, NJ
Shawn McSweeney, Chatham, NJ
Carl Mendez, Warren, NJ
Ronald J. Meraz, Green Village, NJ
Martin Mersky, Morristown, NJ
Walt Metzger, Scotch Plains, NJ
Naomi H. Miller Stein, Morristown, NJ
Stephen G. Mills, Chatham, NJ
Douglas Molstad, Madison, NJ
Thomas S. Monaghan, Chatham, NJ
Dorothy Morehouse, Chatham, NJ
Mary Morrison, Madison, NJ
Muriel Mota, Roseland, NJ
Michele Murray, Morristown, NJ
Agnes Niech, Chatham, NJ
Michael Noonan, Morristown, NJ
Eleanor Norcarrow, Morristown, NJ
Lillian O'Brien, Gillette, NJ
John M. O'Neill Jr., Chatham, NJ
Janet Ott, Chatham, NJ
Margaret Paglia, Bernardsville, NJ
Carol Palmer, Bernardsville, NJ
Steven D. Palmisano, Chatham, NJ
Robert M. Pandos, Morristown, NJ
Beverly Panzer, Morristown, NJ
Mary Paola, Fanwood, NJ
John Pearce, New Vernon, NJ
Geoffrey F. Peters, Princeton, NJ
Dominick Petrosino, Madison, NJ
Mathew A. Pietrontone, Murray Hill, NJ

Dorothy E. Pietrowski, Madison, NJ
Cecilia Polaski, Morris Township, NJ
Arthur A. Povelones Jr., Morristown, NJ
Evelyn Powers, Morristown, NJ
Jill Pozarek, Millington, NJ
Anne Quinn, Chatham, NJ
Rainbow Montessori School of Madison,
Madison, NJ
Elizabeth Rainone, Piscataway, NJ
Joyce Ellen Reilly, Chatham, NJ
Donald W. Remlinger, Morristown, NJ
Jay Reuben, Morristown, NJ
Thomas Rice, Mendham, NJ
Eric J. Robbins, Morristown, NJ
Joseph Robillard, Chatham, NJ
Cynthia Rooke, New Vernon, NJ
Barbara Rottner, Morristown, NJ
Alan Routh, Chatham, NJ
Roy A. Russen, Gillette, NJ
Sue Salesky, Boonton, NJ
Maria Santoro, NJ
Roger C. Schenone Jr., Chatham, NJ
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A. John Schmitz, Madison, NJ
Hubert Seitel, Gillette, NJ
Kelly Shanley, Chatham, NJ
David C. Shepperly, New Vernon, NJ
M. Alden Siegel, Morristown, NJ
Maria Silvagni, Gillette, NJ
Fausto Simoes, Millington, NJ
Karen Smith, Morris Township, NJ
Richard Southern, Millington, NJ
Gary Stapperfenne, Millington, NJ

Karl & Patricia Stephan, Chatham, NJ
Benjamin Stern, Morristown, NJ
Mark H. Steward, Chatham, NJ
Edith Stewart, Gillette, NJ
William Stoever, Maplewood, NJ
Stephanie Stokes, Bernardsville, NJ
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Gerald Walker, Chatham, NJ
Wendy S. Walker, Chatham, NJ
David Weinfeldt, Gillette, NJ
Kristin Winter, Chatham, NJ
Robert Wintz, Morristown, NJ
Stephen Young, Chatham, NJ
Michael P. Zanchelli, Gillette, NJ
Candace L. Zeman, Stirling, NJ
Edwin & Mary Zipf, Bernardsville, NJ

Warmest thanks, too, to those of you who have continued to support the efforts of GSWA over the years. Our member community now stands at nearly 2,000. We can't do the work that we do without you! If you are not yet a member, please join GSWA today!

Please help us save the trees and cut down on mailing costs by providing your e-mail address for electronic newsletter delivery. Please send your e-mail address to ddolan@greatswamp.org.

Attention All Members

Annual Meeting

November 2, 2007, 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Hamilton Park Hotel & Conference Center
Florham Park, NJ

Meeting to include:

Fiscal Year Financial Report
Chairman's Report
Executive Director's Report

Corporate Volunteers Partner with GSWA on Conservation Management Area

They come by the dozens, sometimes up to 50 in a group, with their work gloves and boots in tow, ready to rip out invasive plants, plant native shrubs, erect boardwalks and birdhouses, and generally put their energies into helping GSWA manage its beautiful, wooded 50-acre natural area known as the Conservation Management Area.

In the past few months employees from Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Maersk, Ortho-McNeil, and Wyeth have donated nearly 1000 total hours to GSWA's Conservation Management Area (CMA).

"Several threatened and endangered species call the CMA home, and our goal is to restore the property to increase its biological diversity, making it a better place for animals to live, and consequently a better place for individuals to come and observe wildlife," said Hazel England, GSWA director of outreach and education. "Our Conservation Management Area has been selected as a case study in the state's Invasive Species Management Plan for the way volunteers significantly



Participants in the first of three Goldman Sachs workdays held at the Great Swamp Watershed's Conservation Management Area. These volunteers chipped trails, hung wood duck boxes and removed invasive species, along with building boardwalk to improve the CMA for both public and wildlife.

contribute to the effort. Three cheers to our corporate partners and their generous and committed employees!"

For information on how your corporation, civic group or organization can volunteer at GSWA's Conservation Management Area, please contact Hazel England at hazele@greatswamp.org. 🌿



Conservation Management Area Boardwalk Completed

Nearly thirteen hundred feet of boardwalk have been constructed over the last 18 months at GSWA's Conservation Management Area, to facilitate access at the site. Grant monies from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, along with a \$2500 challenge grant offered by GSWA member and volunteer Steve Gruber and

doubled by our membership, enabled the construction of the boardwalk. Labor for the project was spearheaded by Steve and aided by the many corporate partner workdays.

Come take a hike at the CMA to see our handiwork for yourselves! 🌿

Steve Gruber, active GSWA volunteer, screws down the last few boards.

GSWA Salutes Volunteers

They are the heart and soul of our organization! Thanks to the dozens of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy each year, GSWA is able to provide programs and services that protect water and the places we all love in the watershed. We salute each and every one of you for your generosity and commitment!

At our Annual Volunteer Appreciation event in June, GSWA was pleased to recognize three volunteers whose contributions have had significant impact on our organization. Extra special thanks to Ann Campbell for her fabulous work as the GSWA webmaster and newsletter designer; Terry Dyben for his help with



Hazel England, director of outreach and education, presents a special volunteer award to Ann Campbell.



Kelley Curran, director of water quality programs, gives a congratulatory hug to volunteer Terry Dyben.



Former Membership Director Patsy Clew prepares to present a special volunteer award to Joan Kirsten.

the Stream Monitoring Program and the BioBlitz, and to long-time volunteer Joan Kirsten, who has helped with all

aspects of membership and administrative activities. 🌱

Fall Family Educational Programs

Fall Colors Hike

Sunday, October 14, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

GSWA Conservation Management Area, Harding Township

Enjoy the fall foliage and discover the wonders of GSWA's 50-acre forested site managed for wildlife diversity by the staff and volunteers. Be sure to wear your boots, and bring your binoculars, wildlife guides and a snack. We'll be looking and listening for late migrating birds, late blooming fall flowers and more. Meet at the Wildlife Conservation Management Area, Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Township.

Watershed Family Fun Night

Friday November 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

GSWA Headquarters, 568 Tempe Wick Road, New Vernon

Discover the thrills and spills of water at this family fun night, filled with hands-on activities and games designed to open your eyes to the marvel of water. Best suited for children ages 6 – 12 and their parents, this exciting educational event will surely inspire you to get involved in protecting the water and land for all inhabitants of the Great Swamp Watershed. Wear old clothes, as some activities may be messy! Refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

The fee for these programs is \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members, and free for children 5 and under. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.greatswamp.org and click on our secure Event Registration page. Or contact Hazel England, hazele@greatswamp.org. 🌱

GSWA Experts Available to Speak to Area Groups

Do you wonder, "What is in my water?" or "What Can I Do to Ensure Clean Water for My Children?" These questions and dozens more about water quality, land preservation and local efforts to protect the environment can be answered by GSWA's Speakers' Bureau. Experts from the Great Swamp Watershed Association will present interesting, hands-on presentations that will educate and inspire members of your local club or group. Call today for more details: (973) 538-3500.

Loantaka Brook Clean-Up Effort Draws Concerned Citizens

Armed with dozens of garbage bags and filled with tremendous spirit, members of the GSWA Stream Team, concerned residents, and GSWA staff members recently joined together for a **Clean-Up of the Loantaka Brook** to mark National River Cleanup week. Hats off to the nearly two dozen people who rolled up their sleeves for this important effort.

“We hope that the Clean-Up of the Loantaka Brook helps to focus the public’s attention on the fact that a healthier river makes for a healthier community that everyone can enjoy,” said Kelley Curran, director of GSWA Water Quality Programs. “This event showed everyone that a relatively small effort can go a long way to creating a healthier environment. We appreciate the Morris County Park Commission’s assistance in organizing this event.”



Volunteers Chuck Paul, Chuck Amrhyn, Frank Stillinger, and Bill Ahmer enjoy a break after cleaning up the Loantaka Brook.

The GSWA Stream Team, in conjunction with the Ten Towns Committee, has been monitoring the water quality in the five principle streams in the watershed and has scientifically documented the extent of degradation in each stream. Loantaka Brook was selected as the site of the clean-up

effort because it consistently scores the worst in various contamination measures. In addition to many dissolved contaminants, Loantaka Brook also transports suspended silt from erosion, as well as floatable trash items.

After meeting at “Clean-Up Headquarters” at the South Street pavilion in the Loantaka Brook Reservation, the GSWA “Clean-Up Crew” walked along the stream and around Kitchell Pond to remove visible foreign objects from within the flowing water, as well as on neighboring banks and wetlands. “We filled several dozen garbage bags and removed

everything from bottles and cans, tennis, golf and soccer balls to car tires and many unidentifiable manmade objects,” said Curran.

Plans are underway for additional clean-up events. 🌿

Tips You Can Use: Simple Ways to Save Water

Use your appliances wisely.

- Wash only full loads or set small loads to the appropriate water level.
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading them into the dishwasher.
- Replace old clothes washers with ENERGY STAR qualified appliances that use less water.

Don't flush your money down the drain/toilets.

- A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day. Check your toilet for leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. Look for worn out, corroded or bent parts in the leaky toilet. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain the tank.)
- When replacing your toilet, look for high-efficiency models that use less than 1.3 gallons per flush.

Conserve around the house.

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until cool. A running tap can use about 2 gallons of water a minute.
- Try not to leave the tap running while you brush your teeth or shave.
- Don't pour water down the drain if you can use it for other projects such as watering a plant or cleaning.

Stop those leaks.

- Verify that your home is leak-free. Many homes have hidden water leaks that can waste more than 10 percent, costing both you and the environment. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period where no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- Repair dripping faucets and showers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year. This waste will add to the cost of water and sewer utilities or strain your septic system.

*from United States Environmental Protection Agency (4204M) EPA-832-F-06-007 May 2006
www.epa.gov/watersense*

Tips You Can Use: The Quiet Threat to Our Water

Below the ground, lurking quietly out of sight is a serious threat to the water we all drink. We're talking about leaking fuel oil tanks.

Although many private homes and businesses in our area are heated by natural gas, many others were originally built with oil furnaces. With underground storage tanks, these out-of-sight threats are subject to corrosion, leading to leakage of fuel oil into the water table.

The average usable lifetime of a buried fuel oil tank is about thirty years. This estimate varies considerably depending upon the condition of the surrounding soil, and whether, over time, small amounts of water have been delivered to the tank interior along with the fuel oil.

How would you know if there's a leak? One obvious symptom is that your heating system runs out of fuel too early. This is a late-stage indicator that would likely require extensive and expensive remediation, especially in situations where the tank is in close proximity to sensitive natural areas such as wetlands or streams.

The best bet for you, your family and the plant and animal life throughout the area is to undertake pre-spill tank modifications. This usually requires removal of the underground tank, and replacing it with one above ground or in a basement area. Double-walled tanks specifically designed for safe fuel containment can be installed either above or below ground. Pre-leak costs in the \$1500 to \$2500 range can balloon frighteningly to the \$500,000 or higher range once serious leakage has been detected and remedied. Further, governmental agencies may require additional habitat restoration work following the remediation of a spill and could also seek damages based upon impacts to the natural resources.

Fuel oil is toxic to humans, animals and most plant life, which can predispose affected areas to colonization by non-native and invasive plant species as the natural plant community is removed. A recently discovered late-stage fuel oil leak in direct proximity to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has raised serious concerns about sensitive fish and frog populations, and its possible habitat disruption for the Federally Endangered Indiana bat and Federally Threatened Bog Turtle.

With widespread public awareness we all have one more opportunity to take action to protect our water. For more information, you can check out www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/publications/brochures/homeowner/. 🌲



10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- 💧 Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- 💧 Never dump anything down storm drains
- 💧 Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- 💧 Compost your yard waste
- 💧 Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- 💧 Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- 💧 Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- 💧 Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- 💧 Pick up after your pet
- 💧 Inspect and pump your septic tank regularly



For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/nps or
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

GSWA Celebrates a Beaver, a Dam and a Haven for an Endangered Species

That feisty beaver kept building his dam over and over again. Black Brook would overflow and once again the property was under water. GSWA's 3.5-acre property on Long Hill Lane in Chatham, generously donated by Sue and Erv Hoag, has become a haven for an endangered species – and all because of one feisty little beaver.

You see, when the soil became saturated with water for a long period, the trees eventually died. The bark of the dead trees was exfoliated and that's when they moved in. Nearly fifty endangered Indiana bats have discovered the perfect environment for their survival.

"About a month ago, we noticed a United States Fish and Wildlife truck down the road and met Mike, a summer intern

we now refer to affectionately as Batman Mike," said Sue Hoag, member of GSWA Board of Trustees. "He was tracking a colony of Indiana Bats on the property! He counted between 48-50 bats."

"Little is known about the feeding behavior of this endangered species, except that it eats mosquitoes and other insects in floodplain areas with trees," said Hazel England, GSWA director of outreach and education. "If you take away the trees the bats just won't use the site. This is a very exciting discovery for GSWA and we hope to be able to work with the refuge biologists further to ensure the site remains a great bat habitat!" 🌲

Frelinghuysen and Scarlett Visit the Great Swamp



When Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen and U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett recently visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, GSWA Board members Ben Wolkowitz, Frank Stillinger, John McNamara and David Budd were on hand to welcome them to the “neighborhood.”

Hats Off to the GSWA Corporate Council

- Honeywell
- Integrated Communications Corporation
- Kings Super Markets
- Maersk Inc.
- Peapack Gladstone Bank
- Pfizer
- PSEG
- RexCorp
- Schering-Plough
- Wyeth

Working together with GSWA to protect water and the places you love.

For information on joining GSWA’s Corporate Council,
please call Arlene Klemow, Development Director,
at (973) 538-3500, ext. 18.



GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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