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Spring 2006

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 26 No.2

A "Salute To Silver" Will Mark Our 25th Anniversary

Great Swamp Watershed Association was created in 1981 to protect the water and land in the Great Swamp watershed. For 25 years the Watershed Association has been acting on behalf of our communities to ensure that your water is safe and pure and our open space is protected.

The Watershed Association will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with "A Salute To Silver" celebration to be held at the Brooklake Country Club, in Florham Park on Friday, November 17, 2006. This year's recipient of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Award will be former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean.

Governor Kean served as Governor of New Jersey from 1982 to 1990. In 1990 he was appointed president of Drew University. In 2002, Governor Kean was appointed by President George W. Bush to chair the *National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*, widely known as the "9/11 Commission," which has been considered the most influential independent government commission since the Warren Commission.

Governor Kean had a strong environmental record while serving as Governor of New Jersey. He made environmental protection a priority and enacted some of the nation's strictest environmental laws, including the Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act

(1983) and the Wetlands Protection Act (1987), a regulation key to helping protect the ecology of the Great Swamp Watershed. A life-long conservationist, Governor Kean has worked hard to protect our air, water and open space. As a current resident of Far Hills,

he continues to lend his name and support to environmental causes in the state.

The chair of the event will be Watershed Association Trustee and Chair of the Development Committee, Anne Essner. Honorary Co-Chairs will be Nelson and Nancy Schaenen of Madison and Bill and Nancy Conger, formerly of Long Hill Township.

More details on this exciting event will be released as they are determined. For more information, contact Patsy Clew at 973.538.3500 x21.

An Evening of Recognition

25 Years of Protecting

Water & Land In Your Town!

On April 6, the Board of Trustees of the Great Swamp Watershed Association invited a group of supporters to join them for "An Evening of Recognition."

The event featured a wine tasting and selection of hors d'oeuvres and was held at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts in Madison, NJ.

As a token of appreciation, guests received a complimentary autographed book "New Jersey: The Natural State" by nature photographer Dwight Hiscano.

Close to 40 people attended. Ruth Kerkeslager, GSWA Development Director and organizer of the event said, "these types of gatherings are wonderful ways to keep our supporters informed about what we are doing and to give them an opportunity to join together in a social context."



Nelson and Nancy Schaenen enjoy an evening event at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, along with Watershed Association Board Chairman Dan Harding. [More pictures on page 2.]

GSWA Executive Director Julia Somers Is Honored By Unity Charter School

Unity Learning Environments held its second annual Environmental Stewardship Award event on Friday, March 31st, for the benefit of Unity Charter School.

This year's award was given to our own Executive Director, Julia Somers. Kim Kramer, President of Unity Learning Environments, which supports Unity Charter School, explained that, "when we considered a local recipient for our stewardship award, Julia Somers came to mind immediately. She has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the environment of the Great Swamp watershed area. Also, her organization is continually improving and expanding educational programs for both adults and children and of course that appeals to us."

Unity Charter School is a kindergarten through 8th grade school with a focus on sustainability and is located near Speedwell Lake in Morristown. Charter schools are public schools but receive ten percent less funding per student than regular district schools. Unity depends on private fundraising to fill that gap.

The school has been recognized with several awards including one for its community service. On Wednesdays, Unity students can often be seen spending school time cleaning up around Speedwell Lake. "At Unity, we really value our public natural spaces, so I'm pleased that our awards event is being held at the Morris County Cultural Center on Mendham Road in Morris Township," said Ms. Kramer.

David Helmer, Executive Director of the Morris County Parks Commission, presented the award to Ms. Somers. Said Ms. Kramer, "Dave Helmer is in charge of one of the premier public park systems in the nation so we're very grateful that he agreed to participate in our event."

The awards event included a silent auction, open bar and "organic hors d'oeuvres" made by Unity's own professional chef.



Long time GSWA members and faithful contributors, Harriet and Dixon Grose of Morris Township, enjoy themselves at the "Evening of Recognition" event at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts.



Former Trustee Pam Harding of Bernards poses with Executive Director Julia Somers. Julia is holding a copy of the Dwight Hiscano photography book that was given to all attendees.



GSWA Executive Director Julia Somers (second from left) displays her Environmental Stewardship Award, presented by David Helmer (at left), Executive Director of the Morris County Parks System. Also on hand to celebrate were Unity Learning Environments Trustee Chris Hepburn of Madison; Kim Kramer, President, Unity Learning Environments and Rob Agree, Director of the Unity Charter School.

Across the Watershed is a quarterly publication of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. The Watershed Association is a membership-based non-profit that protects drinking water, and preserves land to maintain the natural beauty and enhance the livability of your town.

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Editing & Layout: John Malay

Contributors:

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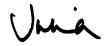
From the Desk of the Executive Director

This is such a bittersweet column to write. I never thought I would leave the Great Swamp Watershed Association, but that is exactly what I am about to do. I do so with a heavy heart, but I am so excited about the future! As we celebrate our 25th anniversary year, the Watershed Association has ambitious goals, which I laid out in this column in the last newsletter. Those remain for a new Executive Director to shepherd along, helped by the marvelous staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees here.

But in June, I leave the Watershed Association to begin a new position as Executive Director of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. The Coalition is made up of many New Jersey environmental organizations – both small and large – who have worked together long and hard to encourage and support passage of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Passage of the Act was achieved in June, 2004. It specifically emphasizes the protection of water resources for both potable water supply for most of northern New Jersey's millions of residents (their water largely comes from the Highlands), and the ecosystem viability of the Highlands. The Act also includes goals relating to the protection of agricultural viability, ecosystems, species and communities, as well as scenic and historic resources. The Highlands region includes 88 towns covering 1250 square miles, and seven of the Great Swamp watershed's ten towns are in the Highlands Planning Area (only Madison, Chatham Township and Long Hill are excluded.) Now the Coalition's goal is to support and advocate on behalf of the Highlands as the Council, that was created by the Act, develops and implements its New Jersey Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) which will hugely influence future land use decisions in the region.

Recently, the Council announced a new deadline of December 2006 for adoption of the RMP and much work remains – for all – before that goal will be achieved. However, these are exciting, heady and challenging times for all involved, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of the effort.

But of course it means I can no longer work here, in the Great Swamp watershed, with the best group of people anyone ever had the privilege to meet. For me, it has been a great fourteen-year ride, along the way giving me the opportunity to meet a broad spectrum of people elected to represent their towns, volunteers of every stripe working hard (sometimes together, sometimes not so cohesively!) to protect and shape the environment we all care about so much. I have worked with a fabulous and dedicated staff and board, and have seen the organization I care about so much develop and mature into one that truly makes a positive difference in our watershed. Many, many people deserve credit for that, and you should all take a bow. I know I can count on you to continue caring about the Watershed Association, and protecting our Great Swamp watershed. I hope to keep in touch with you all in my new endeavors, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for the privilege of working with you.



Event Calendar

What's Happening In the Great Swamp Watershed

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 the numbers listed 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.

Somerset County Environmental Education Center

Nature Hikes for Tykes Series I

(Ages 2-3 with parent)

It is never too early to begin exploring nature. Bring your tyke for a hike and activities that focus on using the five senses. All classes will consist of themed hikes, crafts, and hands-on activities.

\$8 per pair per class/\$4 per additional child. Course Code: 51413 EEC-45 Tuesday, May 16 "Life in a Log", 10:30am-11:30am

Giants in the Forest

(Ages 2-3 with parent)

Join us on a special hike into the forest to find the giants who live there the trees! We will meet some of these giants while we learn and play under their limbs.

\$8 per pair/\$4 per additional child. Course Code: 51002 EEC-4 Tuesday, May 30, 10:30am-11:30am

Animal Babies

(Ages 3-5 with parent)

Come find out how animal parents raise animal babies! Play some games and do some role playing. Look through pictures, read a story, make a craft, or look for real animal babies on a hike. The possibilities are endless and full of fun!

\$8 per pair/\$4 per additional child. Course Code: 51095

EEC-3 Monday, May 1, 10:30am-11:30am

Mud Minnows and Pumpkinseeds

(Ages 3-5 with parent)

The rivers, streams, and ponds of Lord Stirling Park are home to many species of fish. Come see what fish we can find in Branta Pond. Do not feel 'gill'ty-we will return them when we are 'fin'ished.

\$8 per pair/\$4 per additional child. Course Code: 51087

EEC-2 Monday, May 22, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Animals From All Over

(Ages 3-5 with parent)

You probably already know about New Jersey's wildlife, but how much do you know about animals from around the globe? Explore foreign wildlife through pictures, stories, games, crafts, and imaginary hikes.

\$8 per pair/\$4 per additional child. Course Code: 51091

EEC-28 Wednesday, May 24 "Rainforests", 10:30am-11:30am

Animal Legends - NEW

(Ages 4-6)

Coyote, Bear, Wolf, Raven... Many animals have been the subject of stories, legends, myths, and fables. Some of the tales are a little hard to believe while others might make you wonder. Stories and a craft will help you decide fact from fiction.

\$9 per person. Course Code: 51204

EEC-2 Tuesday, May 16 "Owls", 4:00pm-5:30pm

Round the World

(Ages 4-6)

Travel around the world with a Naturalist and explore the many different habitats on Planet Earth. We will discover the diversity of plant and animal life that is supported by our home. We will play games and make a craft during our trip. So come to the Environmental Education Center and learn about the world!

\$8 per person per class. Course Code: 51058

EEC-30 Tuesday, May 23 "Ocean Surprise". 4:00pm-5:00pm

Nature Hikes for Tykes Series II

(Ages 4-6 with parent)

It is never too early to begin exploring nature. Bring your tyke for a hike and activities that focus on using the five senses. All classes will consist of themed hikes, crafts, and hands-on activities.

\$8 per pair per class/\$4 per additional child. Course Code: 51307 EEC-45 Thursday, May 25 "Life in a Log", 10:30am-11:30am

Darling Dragons and Dainty Damsels!

(Ages 4-6 with parent)

Have you ever wondered what was swimming with the fishes and spying on the frogs? Join a Naturalist to get to the bottom of this often asked question and find out how fun it is to play in swamp water. Not for the faint of heart! Just kidding. Program includes a story and outdoor exploration.

\$12 per pair/\$6 per additional child. Course Code: 51416

EEC-5 Friday, May 26. 3:30pm-5:00pm

Fly with Me!

(Ages 7-9)

Brisk spring winds just cry out for kites! In this class we will build and fly a variety of flying objects such as a boomerang, kite, and paper bats! Be prepared to soar as we take flight on this spring day at Lord Stirling Park. Come and join the fun!

\$10 per person, Course Code: 51429

EEC-5 Wednesday, May 10, 4:00pm-5:30pm

On the Trail

(Ages 7-9)

Take a hike with a Naturalist down one of our many trails, using our eyes, ears and maybe our noses to explore. Like Lewis and Clark, we will make a map to take home which records our discoveries.

\$7.50 per person. Course Code: 51433

EEC-3 Monday, May 15. 4:00pm-5:30pm

Mantis Mania

(Ages 7-9)

They silently sit and wait for something to slowly slither by. Patiently "preying," waiting for the perfect tasty morsel. This is the life of one of our greatest predators. Come explore these mysterious and wonderful creatures. Not for the faint of heart. Just kidding!

\$7.50 per person. Course Code: 51417

EEC-7 Saturday, May 20

Natural Disasters - NEW

(Ages 7-9)

Do you wonder about Hurricanes, Tsunamis, and Earthquakes? Experiment with air, water, and other natural elements to discover how these weather phenomena occur. We will try to recreate what Mother Nature is doing outside in a safe environment, our classroom. Discover why certain areas of the world are prone to these events and why you might not want to live there.

\$12 per person. Course Code: 51205

EEC-2 Thursday, May 25 "Earthquakes", 4:00pm-5:30pm

The Age of Aquarium

(Ages 7-9 with parent)

Want to learn how to set up your own aquarium? Then this is the program for you! First we will take a walk into the swamp and see how nature does it. Then we will put together our own fresh water tank. Price of program includes tank, pond study instruction, and a Siamese fighting

\$20 per pair/\$15 per additional child. Course Code: 51425 EEC-9 Saturday, June 3, 2:00pm-4:00pm

The Green Team

(Ages 13-15)

Do you need to fulfill your community service requirement for school? Is natural science a subject you find interesting? Do you like the outdoors? Is the Great Swamp a place you like to visit? If so, join us at the Environmental Education Center for educational and fun volunteering opportunities. Pre-registration is required.

FREE. Course Code: 51438

EEC-27 Saturday, May 27. 1:00pm-4:00pm

Educational Programs for Adults and Families

Archaeological Field School

(Adults and children age 15 and older with an adult)

Under the direction of Dr. Alan Cooper, participants will learn about archaeological techniques and participate in an actual "dig" at a site estimated to be more than 6,000 years old.

\$65 per person. Course Code: 58500

EEC-11 May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 1. 9:00am-2:00pm

Birds over Breakfast - NEW

Everyone knows about the early bird. Start your day with a walk in the Swamp to look and listen for the birds that make their homes here in Lord Stirling Park. Skip your corn flakes and come have breakfast and coffee with the birds.

\$12 per person. Course Code: 51182

EEC-2 Monday, May 22, 7:00am-9:00am

A Walk to Remember

(Adult)

Join us as we observe the swamp's cycles through the year! A Naturalist will guide you along our trails to discover and compare the swamp from one month to the next. Bring a journal to record what you see and to reflect on the monthly changes. Come start your own phenology discoveries on a walk that you will truly remember!

\$9 per person. Course Code: 51064

EEC-30 Wednesday, May 24, 5:30pm-7:00pm

Big Day - Birding Blitz - NEW

Join in on a cross-county tour of the parks of Somerset County as we try to tally as many birds as we can. We will travel by van from Lord Stirling Park in the Great Swamp, and wind our way down to the Sourland Mountain Preserve, stopping by several of our county parks to seek feathered gems to add to our list. The pace will be quick-not a leisurely birding trip for the faint of heart.

\$35 per adult/\$30 per student/senior. Course Code: 51183

EEC-1 Sunday, June 4, 7:00am-4:00pm

Responsible Pet Care Series

(Family and Friends)

Pondering a pooch? Seeking a snake? Adopting a pet is a lot more than going to the pet store with a wallet full of cash. It is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. If you, your child, or someone you know is thinking of getting a pet, stop in to learn more about a variety of common household pets and what their care includes. Some pets may stop by for a visit as well, for some hands-on learning! This class will be informative whether you are 5 years old or 50 years old, so bring a friend and find out proper pet care techniques.

\$6 per person. Course Code: 51184

EEC-3 Wednesday, April 12 "Clever About Canines and Cats", 6:00pm-7:00pm

NATURE WALKS at the Environmental Education Center

One Hour Wanderings

(Family and Friends)

Selected Sundays in the winter and spring, we will lead an hour-long interpretive walk. Each week we will focus on a different theme, so make these walks a part of your weekend routine. Pre-registration is not

FREE (Not designed for organized groups.)

Sundays Noon-1:00pm, June 4, 11, 18

The Art of Photography at the EEC - Camera Naturalists Photo Club

Camera Naturalists is the only club in New Jersey dedicated strictly to the art of nature and scenic photography. Meeting at the Environmental Education Center, the club offers educational programs, competitions, field trips, slide shows, and participation in public exhibits. Guests are welcome, and anyone interested in nature photography is invited to join.

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Environmental Education Center

Environmental Education Center Movie Club

(Family and Friends)

Fun educational films focusing on the world around us. Enjoy the camaraderie of old fashioned movie going with the benefit of some great nature programs on the big screen. Good clean fun! Movies/programming to be announced.

\$6 per person. Course Code: 51068

EEC-7 Friday, May 26, 6:30pm-9:00pm

Compass 101 - NEW

(Family and Friends)

Develop your map and compass skills while revealing the cultural and natural history of Somerset County Parks. We will learn and apply the fine arts of taking a bearing and reading a map. A simple course will end the class and start you on your way finding your way out of the woods with a compass.

\$12 per person. Course Code: 51206

EEC-2 Tuesday, May 30, 5:30pm-7:30pm

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Watershed Watch -- Environmental Hot Spots

Bernards Township

Bernards Works On Zoning Ordinances to Regulate In-fill, Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas

After three years of inaction, the Township Committee is finally moving forward toward achieving some of the environmental goals of the 2003 Master Plan. In March it approved an ordinance to require that future homes outside the sewer district have a backup septic disposal field available to use in case their primary field fails. This brings Bernards in line with surrounding communities.

Two other land use ordinances that were introduced sparked a firestorm of objection led by local realtors and developers. The environmental-based ordinance the group found particularly egregious would require developers to calculate only the amount of unconstrained land on a tract of land in order to determine the number of new lots that may be created. Environmentally-sensitive land would be omitted from the equation. This ordinance would also mandate a minimum "usable space" surrounding the home so that future owners would be able to enjoy the property near their house without worrying about encroaching on any conservation easements that might exist for wetlands and buffers.

The purpose of the second ordinance would be to undo some problems that a 1999 zoning ordinance generated for homeowners, which increased the minimum lot size in several residential zones, creating dozens of undersized lots. The final version of the new ordinance would exempt improvements to houses on those noncompliant lots as long as existing non-conformances are not made worse, but it would not exempt "bash-and-build" projects from having to appear before the Board of Adjustment – which apparently adds to concerns among the local developers. An energetic letter writing campaign by beleaguered developer rights supporters resulted in the appearance of several hundred homeowners at a lively township committee meeting.

A third environmental ordinance, which will apply state storm water management rules to a wider spectrum of home construction work, was approved in February. Under the new ordinance homeowners will have to provide infiltration measures to handle runoff if they wish to add new impervious area of 1,000 square feet or greater.

In other Bernards Township environmental news, Millington Quarry Inc. has finally agreed to township demands regarding their rehabilitation plan, thus ending five years of litigation by the quarry owners and operators. The quarry will now comply with the township's 2 to 1 slope requirements. Incoming fill will be

subjected to an insoection program and strict engineering standards will apply to its application at the site.

On April 4, the Planning Board adopted a Historic Preservation chapter for the Master Plan, again, against major opposition from developers. The element recommends that the township appoint a historic preservation advisory committee and work on compiling a list of historic structures.

Ann Parsekian

Chatham Township

Chatham Township Still Eyeing Wetlands for Possible Playing Fields

In March, the Chatham Township Committee continued its efforts to build new or improve existing playing fields at Shunpike Park. Last Summer, Chatham Township paid \$1,700 to Ecol Systems, Inc. to investigate building fields on a 17-acre wooded wetland adjacent to the Shunpike fields. In September, Ecol Systems reported that the land was too wet to build on. Now the Township Committee is paying Ecol Systems to look at a much smaller parcel that lies between Shunpike Park and Fairmount Country Club. Ecol will classify the wetlands on the smaller site to see what type of buffers they merit from the NJ Dept of Environmental Protection. The Township Administrator, Tom Ciccarone, said that future improvements, such as putting in artificial turf fields, may depend on how much the adjacent wetlands can be disturbed.

Mayor Bill O'Connor said that the Township will also ask Ecol Systems to reexamine the vernal pools in the Shunpike Field area. He indicated that there may be a workable place for one field if some truer picture of the vernal seasonal pools emerges.

Ecol Systems found that the 17-acre parcel adjacent to Shunpike Fields is a remarkably pristine forested wetland. It determined the stream is clean enough to be classified Category One, which requires a 300 foot buffer from all construction. Ecol also found that most of the wetlands there are classifiable as "exceptional resource value" wetlands, which require a 150 foot buffer from any development. The consultant said that State endangered species regulations also protect the site from construction. The mature forest is potential suitable habitat for the endangered red-shouldered hawk and the threatened barred owl. Vernal pools on the site are likely habitat for the endangered blue spotted salamander.

Planning Board Looking for Ways to Control McMansions

The Planning Board this Winter and Spring has been looking at trying to keep new homes from becoming McMansions, that is, houses that are too large for the proportions of their lot size and neighboring homes. The knock-down, rebuild phenomenon is a watershed environmental concern because builders often build new homes to the maximum footprint allowable by current zoning ordinances, and they also take down many mature shade trees. With increased impermeable surfaces and reduced water uptake from trees comes diminished water quality in the Great Swamp due to greater and dirtier quantities storm water runoff. The Planning Board is considering increasing sideyard setbacks, introducing floor area ratio requirements, increasing perimeter tree protection, and other measures to decrease home dimensions and maintain leafy neighborhood character.

Kathy Abbott

Morris Township

Abbey Woods at Delbarton

On February 9, NJDEP sent Schoor Depalma, engineer for Abbey Woods at Delbarton, a deficiency letter. The letter began, "The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has received numerous public comments regarding the proposed amendment for the Saint Mary's Abbey Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). The Department has a duty, as part of the public process, to provide a response to these comments. In order to fulfill this obligation, the Department will require additional information to address the following comments, which have not been sufficiently addressed in prior submittals."

The deficiency letter went to raise these issues: (a) the recent discovery of a summer breeding colony of the federally listed (endangered) Indiana Bat in close proximity to the proposed CCRC development and the comments received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service; (b) questions about aspects of the site design pertaining to the Stormwater Management Regulations; (c) numerous comments expressing concern over potentially negative impacts to the viewshed of the surrounding historical parklands and the balloon study which fails to address impacts from points located in the interior of the parklands; and (d) serious allegations raised which question the qualifications of the individuals involved in the preparation of both the Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Analysis and the Cultural Resoruce Analysis.

Schoor Depalma was requested by the Department to "respond to the comments contained in this letter by the close of the public comment period on March 23, 2006." As of late April, they have not done so.

Julia Somers

"Bash and Build" Hits The Watershed

At least four communities within the Great Swamp watershed -- Bernardsville, Chatham Township, Madison and Morris Township -- are now the targets of a new land development strategy on the part of K. Hovnanian Enterprises. Nicknamed "bash and build" the technique involves sending scouts out to look for smaller, older homes, approaching the owners and offering to buy them. The homes are then demolished and replaced with much larger, more expensive houses that fill the lots to the edge of the building envelope.

Such tactics have been used for a number of years by smaller builders with local real estate connections, but this appears to be the first entry of a regional developer into the "in-fill" market. Until recently Hovnanian has concentrated on new subdivisions, building more than 18,000 housing units in 2005.

The older homes are referred to as "obsolete" or "functionally obsolete", despite being for the most part post-war construction, dating from the 1950s to 1970s, for example, developer Harvey Kaplan Sr. subdivisions in Chatham and Morris Townships. Kaplan built mostly split-levels and his houses had a reputation for solid construction that made them a desirable purchase for decades. (Realtors would refer in their ads to a "Kaplan-built" home.) However at 1,500 to 2,000 square feet they are "small" when compared with McMansions and are now a target for tear-down. The replacements will weigh in at around 4,000 square feet.

The attraction for the developer is the mark-up. Even with the costs of acquisition and demolition the new homes provide a substantial profit when sold for \$1.5 - \$2 million. In doing so they take advantage of local zoning rules that never contemplated houses of that size. In addition to towering over their immediate neighbors, such houses on small lots increase stormwater runoff.

Towns in the watershed will need to examine their in-fill zoning ordinances to make sure that they balance neighborhood preservation with the normal ability for homes to expand and evolve. This will be a difficult but necessary process.

John Malay

Family Fun in the Swamp - NEW

(Families with children 5 years and under)

Bring the little ones to explore nature in the Great Swamp. This hourlong adventure may include games, crafts, and activities as well as a hike along our trails to introduce children to the world around them. Each program will have a different theme. The subject matter is geared to preschool age children, but younger siblings are welcome. Jogging strollers or baby packs are recommended for the youngest participants.

\$6 per adult/\$3 per child. Course Code: 51211 EEC-3 Tuesday, June13, 10:30am-11:30am

New Jersey Harvest Series - NEW

(Family and Friends ages 9 and above)

This series will explore why New Jersey is called the garden state. Many farms are scattered throughout the state and there is always something happening at them. From spring planting to the harvesting of trees during the holiday season, we will discover what it takes for these farms to thrive in our fast moving society. So take a day off and slow down to tour and get a taste of New Jersey's local farms.

\$45 per adult/\$40 per student/senior. Course Code: 51207 EEC-1 Thursday, May 11, "Spring Planting", 9:00am-4:00pm

Reptibians and Amphitiles

(Family and Friends)

Whoa! Wait a minute, those critters sound all mixed-up! Well, most of the time they are, so join us as we set the record straight about our friends, the reptiles and amphibians. We will learn to identify frogs, snakes, turtles, and more by habitat, sight, and sound. The class includes an outdoor walk and an indoor session with slides and live animals.

\$12 per person. Course Code: 51176

EEC-13 Monday, May 15, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Basically Bats

(Family and Friends)

The only true flying mammals are often misunderstood and feared, rather than appreciated for their prowess as our best natural insect predators. Did you know that a single bat can consume approximately 600 insects per hour? So, pull the plug on your bag zapper and learn some bat biology. Class includes our famous bat quiz, power point, and lecture about bat ecology, as well as a field walk to look for these elusive nocturnal creatures.

\$12 per person. Course Code: 51273

EEC-16 Saturday, May 20, 6:30pm-8:30pm

EEC-17 Sunday, June 18, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Bike and Hike - NEW

(Family and Friends 10 years old and older)

Bring your bike to the swamp and peddle the pavement looking for wildlife along the way. We will cover more ground on wheels, but we will trek more quietly by foot! Bicycling will take place on roads and hiking will take place on trails. This program will meet and finish at the Environmental Education Center. Participants are required to bring their own bicycles. Participants must also be capable of biking at least four miles.

\$12 adult/\$10 per student/senior. Course Code: 51203

EEC-1 Sunday, May 21, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Spring Beauties - NEW

(Family and Friends)

It is now or never! Come to Lord Stirling Park to look at the spring ephemerals. You ask what the spring ephemerals are. Well, these are the flowers that come up for only a short period in the spring. They are the signs that summer is on its way. Learn what they are and a few stories about them as we hike into the swamp.

\$9 per person. Course Code: 51129

EEC-2 Sunday, May 21, 2:00pm-3:30pm

EEC-3 Wednesday, May 31, 5:30pm-7:00pm

Birdsong Basics - NEW

(Family and Friends)

You don't need eagle-eyes to find birds in the Swamp. Learn to identify a variety of birds by the sounds they make. We will begin with an introduction to birdsong then take a hike through Lord Stirling Park, using our ears as our guides. Ssshhh...did your hear that?

\$12 per person. Course Code: 51191

EEC-1 Sunday, May 28, 9:30am-11:30am

Canoe and Kayak Programs

CAN-U-CANNU??

After a "splashing" time at these introductory canoe classes, you will have learned basic paddling techniques, safety aspects of canoeing, and handling a canoe in and out of the water. We require attendance at this class prior to participation in our canoe trips. These programs offer an opportunity for adults and children, ages six and over, to learn to canoe. An adult must accompany children, and paddlers must be at least eight years old. Each canoe can accommodate two paddlers and a child passenger. Classes will take place on Branta Pond at the Environmental Education Center or on the D&R Canal at Colonial Park.

\$8 per adult/\$6 per student/senior. Course Code: 50350

C/CP-37 Tuesday, May 30, 6:00pm-7:30pm

KAN-U-KAYAK??

These introductory kayaking classes will teach you basic paddling techniques, safety aspects of kayaking, and handling a kayak in and out of the water. Programs are designed for adults and children nine and older. You must attend this class and a pool training class prior to participating in a river trip. Classes will take place on Branta Pond at the Environmental Education Center.

\$16 per adult/\$12 per student/senior. Course Code: 50448

Kayak-42 Wednesday, May 17, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Kayak-43 Sunday, May 21, 10:00am-Noon

Kayak Pool Training Session

During this required session, you will learn how to successfully wet exit your kayak. You will also practice getting in and out of the kayak from the pool deck as well as the water. Please wear a bathing suit, bring a towel, and be prepared to get completely wet. All equipment will be provided.

Price included with Kan-U-Kayak Program. Course Code: 59002

EEC-Lord Stirling School Pool

Kayak-58 Thursday, June 1, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Kayak-59 Sunday, June 4, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Kayak-60 Wednesday, June 7, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Passaic Paddle

The Passaic River winds through the Great Swamp basin, flowing through floodplain forest, and many unique wetland habitats. We will paddle this gentle river, home to turtles, herons, frogs, and fish. Please bring a snack and water. All classes will meet at the Environmental Education Center.

\$18 per adult/\$15 per student/senior. Course Code: 50756

Canyak-34 Sunday, May 21, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Paddling After Work

Join us on some of the best local backwaters of New Jersey for a relaxing afternoon paddle. We will start our journey at the Environmental Education Center and possibly head to the Black River, Lake Hopatcong, the Rockaway River, Raritan River, or the Passaic River (depending on water levels). These are some of the more beautiful areas of the state that are untouched by the rush of powerboats. Bring a snack, water, and money for dinner! Return time is approximate.

\$37 per adult/\$27 per student/senior. Course Code: 50761

Kayak Only-27 Friday, May 19, 3:00pm-9:00pm Kayak Only-28 Friday, May 26, 3:00pm-9:00pm

Madness on a River

Join us for an "all day on the river" trip where the paddling location becomes the Naturalists' best-kept secret! Due to possible low water conditions, the Naturalists will choose a river with an appropriate water level. We will try to make these rivers new additions to our paddling repertoire! Please bring a bag lunch, water, and money for ice cream.

\$40 per adult/\$30 per student/senior. Course Code: 50763

Canyak-37 Wednesday, May 10, 7:30am-7:00pm

National Park Service -- Jockey Hollow

Spring Encampment

Join members of the Second New Jersey Regiment, Helm's Company and other invited reenactment groups encamped at Jockey Hollow. The reenactors will participate in black powder weapons demonstrations each day.

May 6, 2006 - May 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Anne DeGraaf, (908) 766-8217

A Farmer's Viewpoint

Step back in time to 1780 and meet a farmer at the Wick House. Hear the views of a local civilian concerning Washington's army after their long stay in Morristown. Ask him about the latest news and his opinion of the war.

May 14, 2006, 1 to 4 p.m.

Weaving

Visit the Wick House to learn how different looms produced the variety of cloth used by families in the 18th century.

May 27, 2006, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Council of War and the French Alliance

Our French allies are sending soldiers and ships! How should we use them? Become a general in the Continental Army and assist in the planning of the campaign for the summer of 1780. Learn about the status of the war and how the French assisted the American cause. This program will be part of the hourly guided-tours of the Ford Mansion. June 4, 2006, 1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m.

Yesterday's Games

Step back in time to the Revolutionary period when toys were made of wood, cloth, and yarn. Bring a parent or friend to the Wick Farm and learn to play such games as Fox & Geese, Nine Men Morris, Battledore & Shuttlecock and Quoits.

June 25, 2006, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Soldier Life

July 2, 2006, 1 to 4 p.m.

Learn about the life of a common soldier from a costumed ranger at our replica soldier huts.

Warm Up for the Declaration

Stories, riddles, jokes and an inspection of the troops are just part of the warm-up activities prior to our reading of the Declaration of Independence. Join in the fun as a costumed park ranger entertains the crowd and gives a "kids level" explanation of the Declaration.

July 4, 2006, 12 noon

Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Celebrate the Fourth of July the way our ancestors did, with a public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Cheer along with costumed park rangers as they denounce tyranny and praise liberty. July 4, 2006, 1 p.m.

Whole Foods Market Holds 5% Day to Benefit Great Swamp Watershed Association

by Ruth Kerkeslager

On Wednesday, April 19, 2005, our friends and supporters from all over the area stopped in to shop at Whole Foods Market in Madison. On that day, and in honor of Earth Week, Whole Foods Market held what is called a "5 Percent Day," donating 5% of that day's net sales to the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Every time you shopped at Whole Foods on that day, five percent of your total purchases (before taxes) was automatically donated to our organization. To enhance sales, Whole Foods created signs, posters, giveaways, and lots of great events to bring customers in to the store and to help our organization.

The day resulted in a significant contribution to the Watershed Association!

This kind of wonderful support is just one example of what Whole Foods Market does for the communities in which it operates. For example, on April 1, a team from the Madison store, led by Marketing Team Leader Samara Salisbury (who also organized the 5 Percent Day), worked all day at the Watershed Association's 50-acre Conservation Management Area clearing invasive plants, building boardwalks, planting native plants, and helping to restore the site to its natural state. Their hard work and dedication culminated in a unique discovery: a wood turtle (see photo on back page of this issue). The wood turtle is on the threatened species list in the state of New Jersey. The sighting of this animal at the Conservation Management Area is an indicator that the environment there is being successfully returned to a natural state that supports native species.

According to Whole Foods Market, community giving at Whole Foods is rooted in their belief that corporations, as well as individuals, must be good tenants of the planet. They are intimately connected to the health and economy of each community they serve, and feel keenly their responsibility to give back to those communities in meaningful ways. They are committed to donating at least five percent of their annual net profits to charitable causes. According to Whole Foods, "giving back expands our passion for quality foods into the larger arena of quality of life."



US Fish & Wildlife Regional Director Visits GSWA Conservation Management Area

On Monday, April 17, US Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Director Marvin Moriarty visited the Watershed Association's Conservation Management Area on Tiger Lily Lane in Harding Township.

Mr. Moriarty is the Director of the Northeast Region, an area extending from Maine to Virginia and covering 13 states and some 70 million people. He leads a staff of almost 1,000 employees running 132 facilities.

The USF&W Service is partnering with the Watershed Association through more than \$27,000 in grants. With these and other funds, the Watershed Association is working to restore the property, by removing non-native species, replanting native species and erecting deer "exclosures," on 23 acres of riparian forest, one section of the 50-acre total property. This land is part of a developing open space greenway surrounding feeder streams to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and other conserved lands, and is located upstream of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The proposed project will restore a multi-layered forest and two vernal ponds on the site bounded on two sides by the Silver Brook. The restored area will act as an island of restored habitat, and as a seed source for recruitment of native plants into the surrounding acres. The area will be used to educate landowners about the value of deer control and habitat restoration on nearby public lands. The proposed project will reduce sedimentation into a feeder stream of the Passaic River, which provides water for over a million people. The area is currently home to at least 88 species of bird; 15 species of reptiles and amphibians; and 110 species of plants. These numbers will increase as plant diversity increases, and the reduction of deer browse allows the flowering and fruiting of plants.

Over 200 volunteers will be engaged in this project. Providing labor are such corporate volunteer groups as Goldman Sachs, Aventis and Starbucks as well as Trout Unlimited and groups recruited from the United Way Day of Caring program.

The project is being overseen by Hazel England, GSWA Director of Outreach & Education. According to Ms. England, "The cooperation and financial support of the US Fish & Wildlife Service has been invaluable in the creation of this project. I look forward to showing Mr. Moriarty what we have accomplished already and what we hope to accomplish in the future with the continuing help of his regional organization."

[See related photo on page 12.]

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Fed Up With \$3+ Per Gallon Gas?

Conservation is the answer!

Use these tips to reduce your fuel consumption:

- Drive slower! Air resistence mounts the faster you drive.
 Keep it under 55 mph.
- Don't idle. If you are going to be stopped for more than a minute or two, shut off the engine.
- Drive smoothly, without sudden acceleration and stopping.
- Car pool, ride share and plan your errands to minimize travel.
- Keep your car tuned up and make sure your tire pressure is correct. Low pressure increases friction with the road.
- When possible, use public transportation.

The best way to save gas? Buy a small car with a small engine. The laws of physics are immutable. Pushing a heavier weight is more work, using more fuel. Don't buy more car than you need, and 4-wheel drive, while it might make you feel safer in the snow, eats up gas the rest of the year.

Consider a hybrid. Although the higher purchase price may make it hard to justify at the moment, as gas prices continue to rise, that 40+ mile per gallon engine will look better and better as time goes on. As more hybrids are built and sold, the price vs. conventional engines will come down.

Outreach & Education

Teaching The Teachers

The Schoolyard As A Natural Habitat

by Patsy Clew

Many of you are familiar with many of the member events we offer here at the Great Swamp Watershed Association. However, I'm willing to believe that very few of you are aware of the tremendous work we do here at the Association educating teachers.

Our Director of Education and Outreach, Hazel England, spends most of her time out of the office either supervising volunteer groups at our Conservation Area, leading member events or conducting workshops for teachers and parents in and around the Great Swamp Watershed. Workshops for educators are designed to provide participants with tools they can use to enhance their existing science programs in a fun, hands-on way!

What do teachers think about Hazel's workshops and what are they like? This reporter dropped in on a Schoolyard Habitat Enhancement Workshop that was being held at the Morris County Outdoor Education Center in Chatham to find out.

The Schoolyard Habitat Enhancement Workshop is designed to show teachers how to enhance their schoolyard so that it can be a habitat for wildlife. Teachers go through the process of creating an outdoor place for learning that incorporates mapping, site design and the flexibility to adapt to an existing curriculum.

Hazel explained that even if a schoolyard environment is not particularly well-suited for natural habitat study, there are educational materials that can be purchased to enhance the environment temporarily. As an example, she placed approximately 5 stuffed birds into different trees. These birds are native to the area and make the sound of each bird.

The workshop starts in the classroom and provides educators with an overview of the process and then moves outdoors so that teachers can apply some of the techniques they have learned.

While there, three groups of teachers from local area schools were each assigned a different outdoor area and asked to make a sketch of it, describe the area and to identify various things about it (sunniest and shadiest spots, high and low areas, sheltered area, windiest area). This information helps teachers determine which areas of their schoolyard will be the best for planting wildflowers, attracting birds, or finding certain plants or insects.

Back in the classroom, Hazel presented some additional guides and resources that she has found to be helpful when implementing the program. Teachers also had a chance to ask questions about lessons covered in the morning session.

Even if some of the teachers cannot find a way to incorporate what they learn into their school day, they find the techniques provided in the workshop to be very helpful for ecology or botany clubs that meet after school. Jean Tobey and Barbara Krebs from Clifton High School are one such example. They have a wildflower area at their school that is maintained by the Clifton High School Botany Club.

According to Jean and Barbara, they have a very diverse population of plants that students can study every day. They believe that the process presented in the workshop can be used to enhance the way students learn and think about their natural environment. When asked what they thought about the workshop, they said that they really enjoyed Hazel's enthusiasm, the process used and the program's applicability to students at all grade levels. They also like the fact that the project can be done over a period of time which gives the students much more of an opportunity to study the natural environment as it changes.



Other workshops offered by the Great Swamp Watershed Association are: 1) *Project Wild* presents hands-on activities that teachers can use to teach about wildlife and natural resources, 2) *Project WET* is an interdisciplinary, supplemental water education program that can be used to teach all kinds of water concepts, and 3) *Wonders of Wetlands*. This workshop provides over 50 activities, extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects and a wetlands resource guide.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association tries to effectively leverage its limited in-house staff resources by educating teachers who are able to reach hundreds of students each year.

From January through May of this year, the Great Swamp Watershed Association will conduct *six* Educator Workshops. More will be held in the fall when the new school year begins.

For additional information about our Educator Workshops, contact Hazel England at (973) 538-3500 x20 or e-mail hazele@greatswamp.org.



Habitat for Insculptadae

This fine specimen of a wood turtle (Clemmys insculpta) was discovered during a corporate volunteer work day at the GSWA Conservation Management Area in Harding. Note the elaborate sculptured shell and bright markings. The wood turtle is a threatened species in the state of New Jersey, making this sighting especially important. Photographed by Blaine Rothauser.



A Visit From the Regional Director

From left: Steve Gruber, volunteer extraordinaire at the Conservation Management Area; GSWA Executive Director Julia Somers; US Fish & Wildlife Service Northeast Regional Director Marvin Moriarty; and Bill Koch, Manager of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Moriarty visted the CMA to see the progress made possible in part by a USF&W grant. See related article on page 10.

Contact us at 973.538.3500 or visit our web site at www.greatswamp.org

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