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ACROSS THE WATERSHED

2004 - 2005
Annual Report
Inside

Fall 2005

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 25 No.4

Jockey Hollow Challenge Repeats Its Success

by John Malay

A combination of beautiful late summer weather, a scenic venue, a fine turnout and great racing was a formula for success for the 2005 Jockey Hollow Challenge on Sunday, Sept. 18.

Organized by the Great Swamp Watershed Association, the proceeds will go towards its historic preservation programs.



"...the loop in Jockey Hollow [is] one of the most difficult racing circuits in the Northeast, with plenty of steep hills, tight turns and even a section of old-fashioned cobblestones." – photo by Board of Trustees Member Mark Strickland

A total of 150 cyclists competed in four professional and amateur races, running the gamut from Class 5 novices, to Over-35 year-old Masters, to the Pro I class with top-ranked riders from the US, Russia and Europe. Purses and prizes this year exceeded \$5,000.

Don't forget!
The Watershed
Association's Annual
Event is November 11th!

The winners of the Pro I & II race were Rafel Urzedowski from the Watchung High Gear Cyclery team, former Russian National Champion Vassili Davidenko of the Navigators Insurance team and Marc Anderson of the Target Training team. Winners of the Masters Race were Marc Aulden, John Durso and David Taylor.

The Class III race was won by Jackie Simes, representing Tri-State Velo, with Barry Miller coming in second and Ken Lundgren coming in third. The Class IV/V race was won by Marcin Wojcik of CTS - Cranford.

Races varied in length from 20 miles to 50 miles, all held on a closed three-mile loop within the Jockey Hollow section of the Morristown National Historical Park. Spectators had their choice of dozens of spots from which to watch the action.

Food and drink were provided for the crowd by the Madison Area YMCA's Teen Program, featuring hot dogs, burgers and other picnic



Winners of the Pro 1 & 2 race are presented with their awards by Terry Deeks, Chairman of Navigators Insurance.

choices. Hospitality tent specialties were catered by Country Picnic of Bedminster. Base Camp Adventure Outfitters of Basking Ridge led parents and children on a hike along the nearby park trails.

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Protecting Your Land

Weapons of Mass Exclusion

by the Science & Technology Committee

Humans and the rest of the living world often seem to be locked in a permanent love-hate relationship with each other. Living space is one of the principal sources of contention. In the 55-square-mile Great Swamp watershed, as elsewhere across our planet, human presence and activity produce two kinds of ecological problems. One is the disturbed balance of wildlife populations native to an area and affected by loss of habitat. The other is the havoc created by invasive non-native species, both plant and animal. These problems often beg for deployment of “weapons of mass exclusion”.

Beginning in 1996 the Great Swamp Watershed Association has devoted resources to the cleanup and ecological restoration of its

Conservation Management Area on Tiger Lily Lane in Harding Township. This area now comprises over 50 acres including floodplains and vernal pools as well as drier hardwood forest. Thanks to many hundreds of hours of volunteer labor contributed by devoted GSWA members and various corporate groups the area is slowly being converted from an impenetrable site suffering from illegal dumping to a vastly more pleasant and ecologically functioning natural forested wetland offering about one mile of natural hiking trails that are open during daylight hours to all.

In spite of improvements, the Conservation Management Area still faces the ecological challenges mentioned above. Specifically, it suffers from browsing of native vegetation by an ever-increasing and ever-more-voracious deer herd. Deer selectively graze on the highly palatable native seedlings and shrubs, removing these plants from the forest makeup and magnifying the problem of invasive plants. The spread of several aggressive invasive plant species (which unfortunately the deer dislike!) displaces native plants with their broad assemblages of dependent wildlife species and reduces plant

diversity at the site. Repelling both kinds of destructive invaders is an absolute necessity, considering GSWA's commitment to having the Conservation Management Area act as a leading example of restored natural habitat. That commitment includes managing the site to encourage rare and endangered plant and animal species native to northern New Jersey.

Fortunately GSWA has become the recipient of a major Natural Resource Restoration Assistance Project (NRRAP) grant, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This grant will permit the installation of approximately 4,000 feet of deer-excluding fence surrounding 23 acres of the Conservation Management Area. The fence should

frustrate the local deer population. Mesh size and installation details should not hinder bird and small mammal passage in and out of the enclosed area. Self-closing gates will be installed to allow human visitors access to the hiking trails. Fencing should be completed by November 2005, thanks in large part to manpower contributed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service – NJ Field Office Partners for Wildlife program. With the advent of total deer exclusion from the designated 23 acres natural re-



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service partners and volunteers clearing fence line.

generation and seedling growth will soon initiate return of wetland and forest to a more natural and diverse biological state. Furthermore, this fencing project will put a stop to the damaging bank erosion produced by sharp hooves at favorite deer crossing spots on Silver Brook as it passes through the 23-acre site.

A fence, no matter how high and strong, is no deterrent to invasive plants. The only currently available weapons of mass

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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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Across the Watershed

Editing & Layout: John Malay

Contributors:

Science & Technology Committee
Ruth Kerkeslager

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Going "Bats" In The Great Swamp

Until recently, *Myotis sodalis* seemed to completely disappear from the New Jersey landscape every spring. What is *Myotis sodalis*, where did it go, why does it matter and will that affect you?

Myotis sodalis is also known as the Indiana Bat. It is listed on both the federal and state endangered species lists. For some time, three places where it hibernates in New Jersey – the Hibernia Mine and two other deep mine shafts in Roxbury – have been well known. Over 30,000 bats of various species spend the winter there, hanging from the ceilings of the mine shafts, sometimes at up to 300 – 484 bats per square foot, including a small number of Indiana bats. But no one has figured out where they go to breed and raise their young in the warmer months. In fact, only one single Indiana bat has ever been found in New Jersey (at Picatinny Arsenal) outside their period of hibernation – until now.

Earlier this year, Sharon Marino, deputy Refuge Manager at Great Swamp, led a number of night time expeditions in the Refuge to determine what types of bats are present there. She took with her Karen Campbell, professor of biology at Albright College in Reading, PA, seasonal staff member Susi Ponce, and some Friends of Great Swamp volunteers. On one particular night, they were just in the right place at the right time. The team caught 28 individual bats representing seven different bat species: the little brown bat, big brown bat, northern long-eared bat, small-footed myotis, Eastern pipistrel, red bat and the Indiana bat. The only species of Jersey bats not identified are considered occasional - the hoary bat and the silver bat - which migrate to the south for the winter, states the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

According to Marino, lactating females and juvenile Indiana bats were among the group as well as one adult male: a spectacular find. At this stage of Marino's study, "it's hard to know where the bats are roosting on the Refuge," she said. "We don't know at this point exactly where they're going." However, with the help of wireless receivers she hopes to find out before long.

Great Swamp provides some ideal summer habitat for bats, a reason why Marino went looking. According to Melissa Craddock of New Jersey Fish & Game, "Indiana bats require specific temperatures and humidity. Little and big brown bats can roost in people's houses, but Indiana bats are more sensitive. They need forest habitat in the warmer months – dead trees like shagbark hickory, anywhere there is bark that can act like a little shutter to cover them." Somewhere like the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and maybe other areas of our watershed.

The identification of Indiana bats on the Refuge suggests they could be present during warmer months anywhere between Roxbury and Great Swamp. Their habitat is already protected on the Refuge but not anywhere else. One reason given for population declines is the removal by homeowners and landowners of dead or dying trees from their property. Bats rely on these trees for roosting during the summer. Their removal is also thought to cause female bats to abandon their young. The US Fish & Wildlife Service recommendation is that large trees or dead trees not be removed between April 1 – September 30.

Bats are mammals and are the only true flying mammal on earth. Better yet for us around Great Swamp, they have been known to eat more than their own body weight in insects in one night. During the summer, females occupy maternity roosts of up to 100 females under the loose bark of dead or dying trees. Maternity colonies have also been located under the loose bark of living trees and in cavities of dead trees.

So, unless that tree is going to fall on your house or cause serious injury any time now, please consider waiting till late Fall or Winter before you cut it down! If you can leave it in place, that's even better. You may be helping to protect an increasingly endangered creature, the Indiana bat, and its young.



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 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.

Ongoing

September 26 through October 12, *Special Eyes on the Environment (SEE)*. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. See nature through the eyes of special young adults attending the Lord Stirling School. The students exhibit black and white photographs that show their special connection with nature. Somerset County Environmental Education Center. 908-766-2489.

Every Friday and Saturday. *Free Nature Walks*. 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet at the Hoffman parking lot. Normally with Don Freiday on Fridays and Mike Anderson on Saturdays, these walks are just plain fun and informative. Trees, tracks, flowers, and, of course, birds. Our free walks are a great way to introduce friends and family to NJAS - bring a companion along!

First and second Sundays of October and November. *Sunday Morning Walks at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*. 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Wildlife Observation Center (the Blinds) on Long Hill Road, Harding Township. Led by Mike Newlon, John Parke, Mike Bisignano, John and Carol Knap and others. Cost: Free.

Construction Information: Morristown National Historical Park

Ongoing Programs

Hours. Daily, 9 AM – 5 PM. The park is closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Washington's Headquarters Museum. The museum is closed for a major rehabilitation and expansion project and will remain closed until approximately spring 2007. Tours of the Ford Mansion will continue during the construction project. It is approximately a 300-yard walk from the visitor parking lot to the starting point of the tour. The only toilets available to visitors during construction are portable toilets located in the visitor parking lot. Because of the limited facilities during the project, Morristown NHP will not be able to accept reservations for group tours for groups of more than 12 people. We apologize for the inconveniences.

Ford Mansion Tours. 10 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM

The Wick House at Jockey Hollow. Daily, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM (Except when school programs conducted; call for availability)

Fees. \$4 per person age 17 and older. Federal Recreation Passports honored.

Visitor Information. 973-539-2016. www.nps.gov/morr

October

16: 1, 2 & 3 PM. *Tempe Wick – Truth and Legend*. The park historian explains the story, both fact & fiction, behind one of New Jersey's famous women of the Revolutionary War. Find out if Tempe really hid a horse in the Wick House or if it's just a legend. Join the historian in a short tour of the Wick House as he points out potential horse hiding spots. Wick House.

21-23, *The Nature of Halloween*. Staggered start times from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Calling all ghosts, pirates, and scarecrows to a fun and informative Halloween stroll on the boardwalk at the Environmental Education Center. Led by a guide, children and their parents will walk shadowy paths to meet and learn about misunderstood, but very important animals, such as a sly fox, a splendid skunk, and buzzy bee. Come dressed in costume for added fun! Limited to ages 3-6 with parent.

\$4 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance. They are not available at door on the night of the program. Somerset County Environmental Education Center. 908-766-2489.

24, 2 p.m. *Preschool Walk: Leaves are Leaving*. Kids ages 4 and 5 take a walk through the woods to learn about the changing leaves and make a fun nature craft! \$10. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973-635-6629.

November

11, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Great Swamp Watershed Association Annual Event & Silent Auction. Basking Ridge Country Club. See article elsewhere in this issue for details.

12: 9 a.m. *Monthly Trail Work Day*. Become one of the park's dedicated volunteers and help maintain its over 25 miles of hiking trails. Tools provided. Wear work clothes including gloves and boots. Please bring your own drinking water. Jockey Hollow Visitor Center. Registration required. To register and for directions and more information, call Ranger Gregory Smith at 908-766-6841.

13: 1, 2 & 3 PM. *A Veteran Remembers*. A veteran of the American Revolution returns to tell stories about his life as an enlisted man in Washington's Army. Commemorate Veterans Day by learning about the battles and hardships endured by the soldiers. Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

20: 1, 2, 3 & 4 PM. *Native-Americans in the American Revolution*. Native-Americans fought on both sides during the Revolutionary War. Learn about their role in the war when you encounter one of Washington's aides on the Ford Mansion tour. Ford Mansion.

30: 2 PM. *Graveyard Tour*. Learn about such varied topics as folk art, superstitions, Halloween, ghosts and important people of 18th-century Morristown in a tour of the graveyard of the Presbyterian Church of Morristown. The tour begins in front of the church across from the Morristown Green. Presbyterian Church on the Green, Morristown.

December

3-4: *Holly Walk*. Visit Morristown-area historic sites decorated for the Christmas season and see how Christmas was celebrated in the 18th, 19th & 20th centuries. A single ticket gives access to all participating sites. Call the park at 973-539-2016 or further information and ticket prices. Hours at the Ford Mansion:

Saturday, December 3: 11 AM – 7 PM

Sunday, December 4: 11 AM – 5 PM.

GSWA FALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

All programs unless mentioned are \$10 for individuals, \$8 for GSWA members. If you join at the family level and above there are tokens for FREE educational events. Our programs welcome adults and families with children. All children under five are **free**, but please note on the online registration form at our website how many persons you are registering

Moonlight Hikes

Although we don't guarantee the moonlight, there will be plenty of nature to learn about on these night hikes around the watershed. We may hear owls, night insects or other night noises, perhaps even coyotes calling! Play some games to learn more about night senses, and revel in being out after dark without a flashlight!

Wednesday, November 16, 6 -8 pm, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Pleasant Plains Road,

Thursday, December 15 6-8pm Downtown Madison Parks, exact location TBA.

Saturday, January 14, 6-8pm Cross Estate, Morristown National Historical Park

Fall into winter and celebrate the Solstice

Join us to celebrate the changing of the seasons as fall becomes winter and the days get only longer! We will share some solstice fare and customs before heading out for a short hike around the grounds surrounding the Reynolds house, GSWA Headquarters.

Wednesday, December 21 6-8pm Reynolds House Tempe Wick Road, Morristown

Fall Nature Detectives

Everyone loves to play detective. We'll use our magnifying glasses, use all of our senses, and follow tracks and clues to see just who is accused of living in the Great Swamp Watershed. Bring your best detectives to this fun search and find. Particularly suitable for children 3-8. Families and babies welcome!

Sunday, November 13 2-4pm, meet at the parking area at dead end of White Bridge road, Great Swamp National Wildlife Trail head

Natural History Hike at the Conservation Management Area.

Many changes are afoot at GSWA's conservation management area. Join us for a 1.5-mile hike to learn all about the ecology of this beautiful patch of riparian forest and the great work being done to restore it.

Saturdays 10am-12noon November 12, December 3, January 7

Natural Ornaments and Recycle Fever Meet the Holidays

At holiday time the trouble with being a kid is you often have little money for gifts...How about if you could make great presents for loved ones from things you found just lying around.... Grown ups would LOVE them, and you would learn that recycling can really be fun! Program for children aged 5-10 and non-peeking adults, who may wish to hang out next door when the fun stuff is being made! Take home gifts galore!

Saturday, December 3 2-4pm at the Reynolds House, GSWA office, Tempe Wick Road

Corporate Council At Work

by Ruth Kerkeslager, Director of Development

In the Spring of 2002, then Board President Bob Blanchard announced the formation of GSWA's Corporate Council. Since then, the Corporate Council has collaborated on a variety of projects and issues both in the workplace and in our communities.

One of the most successful collaborations is between the Watershed Association and Maersk, Schering-Plough, and Wyeth. All three of these corporations are located at Giralda Farms, near Loantaka Brook, and have joined forces with the Watershed Association to adopt Loantaka Brook and help fund its restoration. Loantaka Brook, adjacent to Giralda Farms, is the most polluted of the five tributaries in the Great Swamp watershed and flows into the Passaic River, becoming a source of drinking water for over a million New Jersey residents. Thanks to the support received from these three corporations last year, the Great Swamp Watershed Association was able to make significant progress on our Restoration Program on Loantaka Brook.

Another highly successful partnership with our Corporate Council focuses on Education and Outreach. Honeywell, Pfizer, PSEG, and Kings support the Watershed Association's education and outreach programs. This year, both Honeywell and Pfizer provided grants to expand our current reach to deliver more programs to larger and more diverse audiences. PSEG and Kings sponsored our annual Do the Swamp Thing event, a series of community outreach programs focused on celebrating the Great Swamp and its beauty and natural resources.

The Corporate Council members support GSWA in many other ways. For example, Pfizer, Schering-Plough, Wyeth, and Peapack-Gladstone Bank provided products for our bike race and annual event. Schering-Plough provided computer equipment. The list goes on and on.

The Watershed Association is deeply grateful to these Corporate Council members for their support.

Members of the Corporate Council include: Honeywell, Integrated Communications Corporation, Kings Super Markets, Maersk Sealand, Peapack Gladstone Bank, Pfizer, Schering Plough and Wyeth.

We also receive support from a number of other Corporations for programs ranging from the bike race to the ongoing restoration of our Conservation Management Area. Thanks to Toyota of Morristown; Goldman Sachs; Sanofi Aventis; Sterling Properties; Starbucks; Navigators Insurance; Patriot Media; Ritter & Plante; Thonet Associates and Village Supermarkets for their support during the past year.

Development & Membership

2005 Grants Support Watershed Association

Grants from area foundations and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are helping the Watershed Association to extend and expand its environmental programs, according to Dan Harding, Board Chairman.

Foundations currently provide a little over 20% of the Association's annual financial support, with most of the remaining funds coming from individual members' contributions.

"These grants allow us to continue to focus on projects and initiatives to fulfill our mission to protect drinking water and preserve land to maintain the natural beauty and enhance the livability of our towns," Harding said. "We're extremely grateful to these and other foundations for the critical support they provide."

According to Ruth Kerkeslager, Development Director, these contributions will be used to support a range of projects and initiatives to preserve and protect the vulnerable public lands of the Great Swamp watershed, protect water quality, and educate the public.

The foundations and their areas of support are:

- The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, \$30,000 to support a range of projects and initiatives to preserve and protect water and land and educate the public;
- The F. M. Kirby Foundation, \$12,500 to support a range of projects and initiatives to preserve and protect water and land and educate the public;
- The A. P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation, \$15,000 for open space preservation;
- The Residents For A Rural Harding, \$10,000 for a "context sensitive design" project;
- The Ralph M. Cestone Foundation, \$15,000 to support a range of projects and initiatives to preserve and protect water and land and educate the public;
- The Robert L. Wallace and Jane B. Wallace Foundation, \$15,000 to support a range of projects and initiatives to preserve and protect water and land and educate the public;
- The Hyde & Watson Foundation, Chatham Township, \$10,000 to support the purchase of computer and office equipment;
- The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Watershed Natural Resource Restoration Assistance Project, \$27,000 to support the restoration of the GSWA Conservation Management Area.

Get Ready To Toast The Swamp

It's time once again for the Watershed Association's Annual Meeting, Cocktail Party and Silent Auction. This year's event will take place on Friday, November 11, 2005 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. After the wonderful feedback we received for last year's event, we will again hold the event at the Basking Ridge Country Club on Madisonville Road in Basking Ridge.

The reception and Annual Meeting commence at 6:00 P.M. with ample hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a Silent Auction from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Michele Blanchard, Board of Trustees and Chair of the Watershed Association's Outreach & Education Committee, said that the event has become the social event of the year. "Everyone had a great time last year and raved about the location, the space, the food and drink, and the mix of friends old and new," said Blanchard. "I urge everyone to make plans to attend this very special event and bring your friends."

Included in the evening's events will be the presentation of the prestigious Great Swamp Marcellus Hartley Dodge Memorial Award to Jim Gilbert in honor of his extraordinary contributions toward the preservation and protection of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, its watershed, and the watershed's natural, historic and public resources.

The Silent Auction has become our major fundraiser. According to Ruth Kerkeslager, Development Director, "the Silent Auction raises critical funds for the Association's operating budget, enabling us to continue in our mission to protect drinking water and preserve land to maintain the natural beauty and enhance the livability of your town." This year the items up for bid are better than ever. "We already have lined up some great items for the auction, including vacation homes, a golf outing to Muirfield, Scotland, a day of sailing on Barnagat Bay, sports tickets, and the hottest item around—the iPod Nano" said Kerkeslager. "We really need you to come out on November 11 to have fun, participate in the Auction, and help the Watershed Association continue its vital mission."

We always need additional donations of items for the Auction, and each business, individual or organization that contributes is provided with a business card advertisement in the program.

For more information about this very special evening, contact Sharon McCann on 973-538-3500 x 15, smccann@greatswamp.org.

Tickets are \$75 per person and you can register online at www.greatswamp.org.

Annual Report

Letter From The Chairman



Dan Harding

One of the challenges of guiding a maturing organization is managing change. The Great Swamp Watershed Association is constantly changing and evolving as it works to fulfill its mission to protect the precious natural resources of water and land in your town.

We have had a busy and productive year. Specifically, the Watershed Association embarked upon a strategic planning initiative. With help from Board members and a facilitator from Schering-Plough, staff and trustees began an examination of the history and past accomplishments of the Association and the ever increasing resources needed to adequately fulfill our mission. New membership initiatives, better "branding" of our name and image, a major donor program, additional senior staff resources, further conservation efforts and more ambitious education & outreach programs are all in the works. See other articles in this issue for details.

- Through the efforts of Outreach & Education Director Hazel England and Development Director Ruth Kerkeslager, the Association has received numerous grants to perform new restoration initiatives at our Conservation property in Harding Township. Among other things, we will be fencing off 23 acres in order to exclude deer and reintroduce native plant species.
- Stream Team leader Kelley Curran along with our dedicated Stream Team volunteers established a Visual Assessment Program for the five streams in the Watershed. This augments and supplements the water quality monitoring and macro invertebrate studies already in progress.
- Land conservation - through acquisition and stewardship of land and conservation easements - remains a high priority. We are working with a property owner in Harding Township and anticipate they will donate a conservation easement on their property. We also provided \$500,000 in Green Acres grant money towards the acquisition of the Kirby Property -- a major preservation in Chatham Township.
- The Corporate Council (Honeywell, Integrated Communications, Kings Super Markets, Maersk-Sealand, Peapack-Gladstone Bank, Pfizer, PSEG, Schering-Plough,

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Statement of Activities For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2005

2005

INCOME

Contributions	334,015
Endowment	24,601
Grants	
Restricted	10,900
Unrestricted	106,500
Interest Income	2,929
Miscellaneous	4,875
TOTAL INCOME	483,820

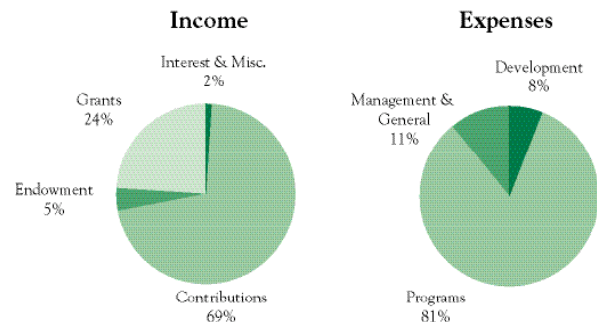
EXPENSES

Programs	
Projects	259,673
Local Issues	82,208
Education	50,238
Land Conservation & Restoration	38,494
Total Program Expense	430,613
Management & General	61,017
Development	44,529
TOTAL EXPENSES	536,159

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (52,339)

ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY

Contributions	20,090
Investment Income	18,310
Gain/Loss on Investments	35,334
Market Value 6/30/04	670,646



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PSE&G
Schering-Plough Corp.
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GSWA Board and Staff Charts GSWA's Future

How did you spend your summer? The Board and staff of the Watershed Association spent its summer completing the strategic planning process that began in 2004.

All organizations, including successful ones, need to continuously benchmark their efforts and change to best meet the needs of their constituency. All organizations need a disciplined process for making decisions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. This is accomplished through strategic planning.

We're very proud of all of our accomplishments in 2004-2005, however we are particularly pleased with the strategic planning work that the Board of Trustees and staff did in 2004-2005. Led by Board member Nancy Miller-Rich, this work started in November 2004, and continued as the Board and staff met over a six-month period to articulate our mission and vision, and to develop strategic goals and objectives. We are very excited about the clarity that this work has brought to our choices and prioritization among goals.

Our Mission:

"We protect drinking water and preserve land to maintain the natural beauty and enhance the livability of your town"

Our Goals (or what we will do):

- Preserve local streams and protect water quality in our communities
- Promote better environmental regulations
- Ensure well-planned and environmentally "smart" development and land use in our communities
- Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive land through land acquisition and easements
- Foster environmental awareness and promote environmental education for all ages
- Develop broad community stewardship and financial support

Our Strategies (or how we accomplish our goals):

- Monitor and assess local streams through stream monitoring done by "stream team" of volunteers
- Create Science and Technology Committee to identify and advocate scientific research to support our programs and enhance the scientific credibility of GSWA
- Influence local and state actions and decisions to preserve the local natural environment
- Assist in acquiring and preserving critical and threatened properties to save from development

- Strengthen partnerships with local and state public and private organizations to establish broad-based conservation projects
- Establish municipal advocacy programs to encourage a regional approach to development
- Expand education and outreach to deliver family friendly programs, provide student education programs to teach future generations about the environment, and leverage our educational reach by teaching the teachers; focus programs and events on support of our strategic intent.
- Enhance our brand and image to make GSWA goals personal and relevant
- Increase and broaden GSWA's base of support
- Maintain a high quality professional staff and an extensive network of volunteers with a strong scientific and technological presence

Letter from the Chairman

continued from page 7

and Wyeth) has taken on an even greater importance to the Association, with financial assistance supplemented by strategic planning and marketing skills and employee volunteer support. Special thanks go to Trustee Nancy Miller-Rich for her invaluable assistance in this effort.

- The Science & Technology Committee (with some impressive scientific credentials on board) was reestablished, with emphasis on water quality efforts, especially on Loantaka Brook, and the conservation property in Harding.
- The Association provided Geographic Information System (GIS) services to help create natural resource inventory maps for Summit in Union County and Stillwater in Sussex County as well as a number of communities within the Watershed.
- The Watershed Association took a leadership role in the fifth annual "Do The Swamp Thing" celebration by coordinating events, developing literature, and managing an advertising campaign.
- Our Executive Director Julia Somers has become a member of two Technical Advisory Committees working for The Highlands Council.
- We continue to maintain advocacy positions on issues throughout the Watershed and we monitor new laws and regulations that emerge from Trenton to encourage balanced development and environmentally sensitive planning.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Trustees, I want to thank all of our supporters, donors, members and hard working staff for their continuing efforts to "Protect water and land in your town".

-- Dan Harding, Chairman

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Kings Super Markets

Maersk Sealand

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PSEG

Schering-Plough

Wyeth

Swamp Watch -- Environmental Hot

Bernards Township

Verizon Wants to Add Buildings & Parking

Verizon has gone before the Bernards Township Committee in order to obtain zoning relief for its property "Verizon Center" on North Maple Avenue (the former AT&T Headquarters). The existing structures are at the allowable limit Floor Area Ratio limit. Any further expansion under current zoning would require variances from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Verizon is considering adding 350,000 square feet of office space plus supplementary outdoor parking lots. The existing buildings measure approximately 1.3 million square feet and all parking is underground. The property is next to Osborne Pond and the Passaic River.

Verizon asked the township committee if they would consider raising the FAR for the E-1 office zone. In return Verizon would place conservation easements on adjacent residential zone properties they own and where they recently demolished a number of rental homes.

Residents spoke out on issues of traffic congestion and the effect on nearby neighborhoods. In addition, any new construction and new employees would affect the township's affordable housing quota. With Bernards running out of sewer capacity the property's wastewater allocation would also have to be reviewed.

The township committee was divided on the issue, with two members (including myself) recommending that any zoning relief be provided by the Board of Adjustment. With one committee member recused for owning Verizon stock the matter does not look like it will move forward on the committee level. The issue was referred to the Planning Board for their comments.

In another Verizon matter, the company wants to build a cell tower near the southeast corner of the property (near the border with Harding). This issue is before the Board of Adjustment.

They are also asking for a "quitclaim" on the overpass that connects them to the North Maple Inn. Unbeknownst to many, the township may have owned the right-of-way (since it passed over a town roadway) since original construction. Residents were concerned that relinquishing these rights might affect Verizon's willingness to maintain the structure. The township engineer and attorney stated that this would not be the case.

-- John Malay

Chatham Township

Consultant Confirms That Woodlands near Shunpike playing Fields Too Wet for More Fields.

This summer, Chatham Township hired environmental consultant EcolSciences, Inc to study 17 acres of the woodlands next to Shunpike field and see if they are too wet to be suitable for clearing to build athletic fields. The results showed that the apparently wet forest was indeed too wet to build on. The Township Committee hired the consultant at the request of Township Committeeman Bailey Brower, although the Township's Natural Resources Inventory showed extensive wetlands on the site. Mr. Brower wanted to determine whether there was an alternative to clearing trees for new playing fields on another wooded site, the 6-acre Woodland Park open space project which is owned jointly with the Borough of Chatham and is adjacent to Chatham High School's Cougar Field.

The consultants confirmed and provided further detail for NJ Dept of Environmental Protection data that there is a Category One stream on the site, which requires a 300 foot buffer from all construction. The consultant also found that most of the wetlands are classifiable as exceptional resource value wetlands, which require a 150 foot buffer from any development. State Endangered Species regulations also restrict construction on the site. 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. Despite this report, the committee authorized the consultant to put in further time approaching the NJ DEP to see if waivers could be obtained that would allow construction of recreation fields regardless of the extensive wetlands.

-- Kathy Abbott & Julia Somers

Morris Township

Wastewater Management Plan

As part of preparing a “credible” and “substantially complete” Wastewater Management Plan, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection had required Morris Township to pass NJDEP-approved ordinances providing for (1) Riparian Buffer protection, (2) Storm Water Management, and (3) protection of Threatened and Endangered Species. At its September 21 meeting, the Township Committee conducted a public hearing and approved those three ordinances.

(1) This ordinance establishes Riparian Buffer Conservation Zones (RBCZ) along all surface water bodies in the Township and over established floodways, a map of which is available in the municipal building. These overlay zones vary in width depending on the quality of the waters and apply to any land disturbance resulting from or related to any activity or use requiring application for: a building permit; zoning variance; special exception; conditional use; or subdivision or land development.

(2) The Storm Water Management Ordinance establishes minimum storm water management requirements and controls for “major development,” and requires groundwater recharge of storm water, while also mandating steps be taken to control its quantity and quality. The ordinance requires that, “to the maximum extent practicable, the standards ... shall be met by incorporating nonstructural storm water management strategies...” and sets out strategies that may be applied. Waivers are possible.

(3) The Threatened and Endangered Species Protection Ordinance is an addition to the “Environmental Impact Statements” requirement of the Township. It applies only to property located in an area mapped as rank 3, 4 or 5 by the NJDEP Landscape Project, is located within a sewer service area of the Township, and requires an NJDEP treatment works approval. The Township has maps available showing the affected areas. If the above requirements are met, a site-specific Threatened and Endangered Species Analysis must be completed identifying all species and habitat areas. Measures must be taken to avoid confirmed habitat areas and any negative impacts to the survival of those species must be identified including mitigation or restoration of disturbed habitat areas.

-- Julia Somers

Harding Township

Ridge at Sand Spring

This 26-acre property on Sand Spring Road was proposed for subdivision into five lots using the Township’s new Lot Size Averaging rules. The property has very steep slopes, mature forest, open meadow and bridle trails. It is considered an important “street scape” in Harding’s Master Plan. After much deliberation over many months, and testimony from the Harding Environmental Commission, neighbors and GSWA, the Board approved the subdivision with many conditions. These, and multiple conservation easements, were instituted to maximize protection under current ordinances of forest cover, steep slopes, viewsheds, and the integrity of the bridle trails. The Shade Tree Commission requested an extensive hedgerow of native trees and shrubs to buffer neighbors down-slope from the new homes, and to try and mask the new private road to these homes which will be built on an enormous ramp up the hillside.

-- Julia Somers



Problems at the Sterling townhouse site in Chatham Twp.
After the heavy rains on October 8 there were reports of erosion, sediment flowing down the drains and remaining trees with root systems exposed. The site has been cleared since early July.
(Photo courtesy Abbie Fair)

Weapons of Mass Exclusion

continued from page 2

exclusion for this problem are the strong hands and backs of dedicated volunteers. Tatarian honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, and Japanese stilt grass are prominent offenders, spreading rapidly with the help of wind, water, and small animals. Until some other defensive weapon is devised, removing these green invading hordes will remain a labor-intensive activity. The hope is to tip the balance in favor of native plants by removing grazing pressure from the natives and suppressing undesirables to keep them permanently at bay in order to maintain an attractive, ecologically functioning, and educationally valuable resource for visitors.

GSWA gratefully acknowledges the help at the Conservation Management Area that has been provided in 2005 by organized volunteer groups from the corporations listed on page 14.

GSWA invites questions and comments about its Conservation Management Area project. **Better yet, you can volunteer to help us with this project!** Contact Hazel England, Director of Outreach and Education. You can e-mail her at: hazele@greatswamp.org, or reach her by telephone at: (973) 538-3500, ext. 20.

Contributors to the Great Swamp Watershed Association's Conservation Management Area Project

- Benners Fence and Garden
- Family Sportsmen Hunt club
- Fish and Wildlife Service Partners For Wildlife Program
- Glaxo Smith Kline
- Goldman Sachs
- Parkway Insurance Company
- Project U.S.E
- Sanofi-Aventis
- Somerset County Young Professionals Association
- Starbucks Corporation

as well as several individual members and volunteers including: Brian Brodhead, Gene Fox, Steve Gruber, Blaine Rothausen and Frank Stillingner.

Wyeth Membership Event is a Big Success

Wyeth, headquartered in Madison, NJ welcomed the Great Swamp Watershed Association to its headquarters on October 6 and 7. Bob Essner and Wyeth invited Wyeth employees to learn more about the Great Swamp Watershed Association and to sign up to become a member. Employees who signed up as members became eligible to win one of three pairs of luxury box seat tickets to the Giants vs. the Redskins on October 30, 2005.

The Watershed Association set up tables with literature, maps and other educational information on the watershed, the refuge and the Watershed Association, and offered fun and educational materials. Over 50 Wyeth employees joined the GSWA during the membership event! Many more walked away with membership information and a renewed appreciation for the work we do!

This very successful event was made possible by Bob Essner, Chairman, President and CEO of Wyeth, and was organized by Amy Martin, Manager, Public Affairs of Wyeth and Ruth Kerkeslager, Development Director of GSWA. Thanks also to all those who worked during the event, including Patsy Clew, Membership Director-GSWA, Hazel England, Director of Education and Outreach-GSWA, Gene Fox, GSWA Trustee, and Julia Somers, Executive Director-GSWA.

Wyeth is one of the world's largest research-driven pharmaceutical and health care products companies. For more information, visit www.wyeth.com.



Wyeth employees get the message about the Watershed Association, courtesy of Julia Somers, Executive Director, and Patsy Clew, Membership Director.

Jockey Hollow Challenge

continued from front page

Corporate sponsorship this year included Patriot Media of Bridgewater, Recorder Community Newspapers, Navigators Insurance of New York City, Sterling Properties of Livingston, Toyota/Scion/Subaru of Morristown, Wyeth of Madison, Honeywell of Morris Township, Peapack-Gladstone Bank of Gladstone, and Shop Rite Supermarkets of Bernardsville.

The race day was organized by the Great Swamp Watershed Association and Velocity Sports Management. Representatives of the United States Cycling Federation, the official sanctioning body for the races, describe the loop in Jockey Hollow as one of the most difficult racing circuits in the Northeast, with plenty of steep hills, tight turns and even a section of old-fashioned cobblestones.

For the second year in a row the National Park Service gave its permission for a bicycle race to be held within the park. The event is approved and held at Jockey Hollow because its proceeds are used to support the Heritage Alliance for Tourism (HAT), a program of the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

HAT is a consortium of organizations working to create a grassroots movement for heritage tourism in Morris / Somerset counties. HAT members include the Morris County Park Commission, Heritage Trail Association, Somerset County Park Commission, Morris Tomorrow, Morristown Partnership, the Public Policy Center of New Jersey and the Morristown National Historical Park.



Not Just Racing: Quincy Clew of New Vernon sneaks away from Mom (race organizer Patsy Clew) for a quick make-over, complete with butterfly.

Bike Race Winners

Pro/1/2

1. Rafel Urzedowski (Watchung/High Gear/Navigators)
2. Vassili Davidenko (Navigators Insurance)
3. Marc Anderson (Target Training)

Category 3

1. Jackie Simes (Tri-State Velo)
2. Barry Miller (ACT)
3. Ken Lundgren (Westwood Velo)

Masters

1. Mark Aulden (CRCA Blue Ribbon)
2. John Durso (Liberty Cycle)
3. David Taylor (CRCA Blue Ribbon)

Category 4/5

1. Marcin Wojcik (CTS-Cranford))
2. Tim Orr (3D-Atlantic Cyclery)
3. Sean Melcher (CJCT-Northeastern Hardware)

Lewis Morris Challenge Mountain Bike Race a Success!

by Geoff Lenat, Marty's Reliable Cycles

Thanks to all the racers and volunteers that made the 2005 Lewis Morris Challenge a great success. Race promoters from Marty's Reliable Cycle aimed at getting a large number of beginner racers to enter and they certainly accomplished that. There were 69 beginners out of a total of 117 racers. Beginners raced 6.75 miles. There were 32 sport racers who did 20 miles, and 8 expert racers who did 27 miles. There were also 8 racers who rode in the single speed class (mountain bikes with only one gear).

The race course traversed as many trails as possible in Lewis Morris Park. Lewis Morris trails are relatively smooth compared to other areas in northeast New Jersey. This made for a super-fast course, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Thanks to the great turnout, the race did turn a profit. All proceeds are being donated to the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Thanks again to all the racers and volunteers. Special thanks also go to the Morris County Park Commission for use of their amazing facility and to the Morris Trails Conservancy who has been responsible for construction and maintenance of the trail system in Lewis Morris Park. See you next year!

Protecting Your Water

We Do Protect the Water In Your Town

As a resident of Summit I am writing to express my thanks to the GSWA for the help it gave the City of Summit in pursuing Green Acres money for the purchase of more than 5 critical acres of watershed within the Watchung Reservation. This land, once slated for development, is very important to the water supply of all Summit residents as it allows groundwater to be used to supplement drinking water drawn from the Passaic River. This action of the GSWA, though Summit is not a part of the Swamp's watershed, is just one example of all that it does to protect the water supply of more than 6 million other New Jerseyans.

This action alone makes me happy that I have been an active volunteer in GSWA's water monitoring program and I hope that all of you who read this will join me in this valuable effort.

Gene Fox

Donations

The following individuals have made contributions to the Great Swamp Watershed Association in honor of Jean and Aaron Rich's 50th Wedding Anniversary:

Mr. & Mrs. Alan H. Bemstein

Mr. Arnold Fisher

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Reich

The following individual made a contribution in honor of Charlotte Turner:

Roger M. Kriete, DMD, P.A.

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Permit #2
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