

Write us at:  
P.O. Box 300  
New Vernon, NJ 07976



# ACROSS THE WATERSHED

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Summer 2002

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 22 No.3

## GSWA Conservation Area Expands & Improves

By John Malay, Project Director & Manager of Conservation Area

The GSWA Conservation Area, located at the end of Tiger Lily Lane in Harding Township has been the focus of a variety of activities over the spring. Thanks go once again to our main conservation area coordinators, Blaine Rothausser, Gene Fox and Frank Stillinger, as well as to the crews of volunteers who have contributed their time and effort at work sessions.

While acquisition of an adjacent tract (the Zimmer property) still winds its way slowly through the legal process, we have been given permission to go on the tract and mark out the location of the new trail that will extend from the property we already own. The current trails on the main property have now been equipped with posts and numbered trail markers (see map).

A printed brochure with a map and information on the Conservation Area is in the final stages of production. Copies of this map will be available in a mailbox on site for visitors and a revised version will be posted on the GSWA web site.

There has been a lot of effort put into plantings this spring. With aid and financial contributions from the Morristown Garden Club, the Harding Civic Association and The Farm at Green Village garden center an area of flowers and shrubs now adorns the entrance to the site, stocked with native species. This garden is the focus, not only of our attention, but the interest of the local animals. We will have a constant struggle

to keep the plantings from being cropped by rabbits, woodchucks and, of course, our nemesis, the white-tailed deer. We are experimenting with various schemes of netting, natural repellants (such as garlic), even mothballs!

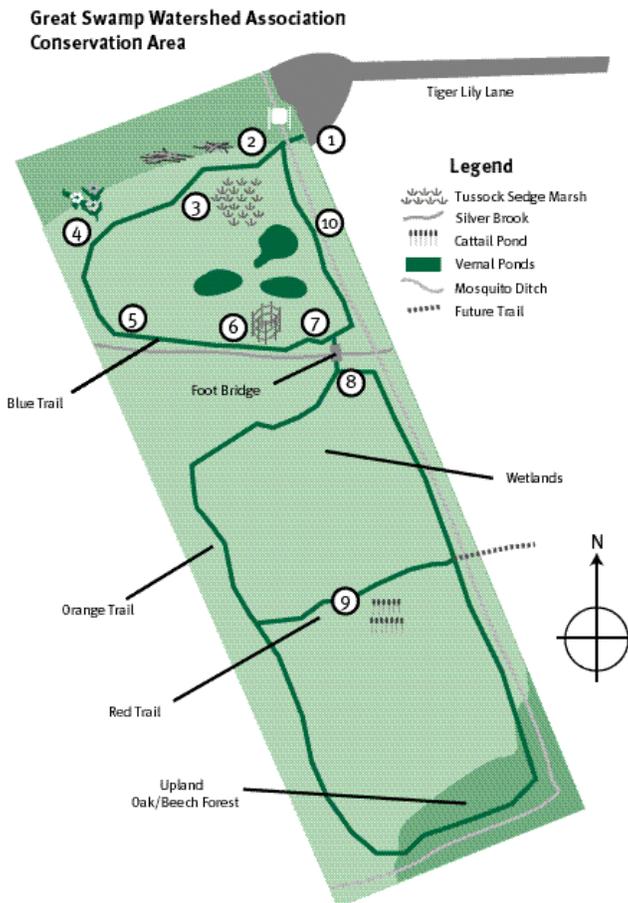
We also received a delivery of tree saplings from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which have now been planted as the first stage in a project for stream bank restoration along Silver Brook. The brook banks are severely eroded in some places, and we will be planting trees and shrubs to anchor the soil and prevent further sedimentation into the water and erosion of the bank sides.

We have planted more swamp pink, a native species, while at the same time continuing to remove invasive plants such as honeysuckle and multiflora rose.

Our bluebird boxes have tenants now! Bluebirds and swallows are in residence. More boxes have been installed near the field at the entrance as well as in the interior of the property.

Efforts will continue through the summer. There is always work to do clearing brush, laying down wood chips, building board walks for the wetter sections, repairing deer enclosures and so on. If you or a group

would like to volunteer, contact me at 973-966-1900 or by email at [johnm@greatswamp.org](mailto:johnm@greatswamp.org).



## From the Desk of Julia Somers, Executive Director:



I want to praise and thank the Morris Area Girl Scout Council for its recent decision to downsize and relocate their proposed new Jockey Hollow camp site.

Many of you know of the Watershed Association's opposition to a new Girl Scout Camp that had been planned for their property next to Jockey Hollow National Historical Park. The proposed camp would have required clearing 18 acres of forest on a site restricted by the donor's easement that required the land remain "wild and scenic." The Girl Scouts' beautiful 212-acre property is also traversed by two category-1 streams (the highest water quality), the Upper

Passaic River and the Primrose Brook. Both are headwaters of the Passaic River and feed the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and we are bound to try to protect their pristine condition.

The Girl Scouts have a new Chief Executive Officer, Helen Wronski, whose professional background includes developing facilities for Y's and Scouts in historic neighborhoods. Upon taking her new position, she immediately reached out to the National Park Service, the Watershed Association and neighbors to begin a dialogue about MAGSC's needs, what the site can sustain, and how to make sure that what is developed meets as many of the groups' objectives as possible. She believes strongly that the Girl Scouts have an overriding responsibility to be stewards for the property's unparalleled historic and natural resources – and that whatever happens there must communicate that vision to all Girl Scouts who visit.

Their new proposal is to concentrate the expanded camp on the current site, enhance it and to build the camp with a log cabin design. Under the trees, there will be a new troop house and several small cabins, and there will be a new swimming pool and an improved activity field in the existing clearing. An Environmental Center will be created and joint programs will be offered with the National Park Service. For instance, part of the horseback riding program for the girls will take place in and around the Park's horse barn and field next to Wick House. New paving, parking and roads have been reduced or eliminated and the number of girls using the Camp at any one time during its summer peek use has been reduced from 425 children and staff to 350. The Camp will become truly functional year round and will be used by many more girls than is possible today, and the estimated cost of construction has been cut in half.

This all sounds wonderful – and it is – but there are still quite a few issues to be ironed out. Water use, wastewater and stormwater management, how to better traverse the wetlands that separate today's parking area from the campsite, and assurances that the easement will never be broken in the future are examples of concerns yet to be addressed.

Through the collaborative effort Helen is leading, the integrity and values of this site would be preserved while still permitting the Girl Scouts to upgrade their experiences here. We are looking forward to being part of this new partnership and hope its end result lives up to the promise of its beginning. ❁

*Across the Watershed* is a quarterly publication of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. GSWA works to protect the ecological, historic, and cultural integrity of the Great Swamp and its watershed. The Association promotes the conservation and restoration of the watershed's natural resources and encourages land use that is compatible with these goals.

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### Across the Watershed

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**Layout:** John Malay

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Ben Kingsley  
John Malay  
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Missy Small  
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# Drought Update

By Karen Patterson

## Bulletin From The DEP June 2002

Some water restrictions have been eased:

- lawn watering now allowed statewide every other day on an odd-even basis;
- watering of non-lawn vegetation statewide on an odd-even basis;
- residential car washing on weekends only using a sponge and bucket or automatic shut off hose;
- daily lawn watering allowed for new sod or seed;
- washing of house using a bucket or automatic shut off hose;
- increasing from 50 to 80 percent (of the permit allowance) the amount of water golf courses use, applying best management practices.

The following restrictions remain in place:

- Serving of water in eating establishments only upon request;
- no ornamental outdoor water use, including fountains, waterfalls and reflecting pools with some exceptions;
- suspension on decisions on applications for new or modified water allocation permits;
- no washing of sidewalks and driveways with some exceptions to protect public health; and
- installing and using low flow showerheads on public showers.

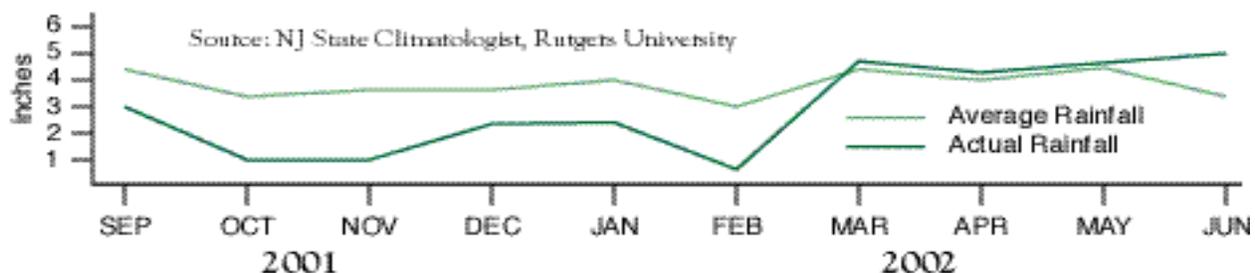
When we published the spring newsletter article on the drought facing New Jersey, I expected to write an update for the summer newsletter that would hold more bad news in the form of below-average rainfall and reservoirs that were so low they might not make it through the summer. Happily, I was wrong! Rainfall totals for the central and northeast region of the state (in which the Great Swamp watershed lies) have been at or above normal almost since the drought emergency was declared back in early March. For the 30-day period running May 20th through June 18th, rainfall was 92% of the normal amount that might be expected at this time of year. From April 20th through June 18th rainfall was 136% of normal. And from March 21st to June 18th (or shortly after the drought emergency was declared), the region received 116% of the normal amount of rainfall for this time of year.

All this rainfall has helped vegetation get a healthy start heading into the hot, drier weather that we generally expect in July and August. I had anticipated addressing the negative impact the drought was having on the flora and fauna of the Refuge in this article. However, a quick call to the Refuge's Wildlife Biologist Craig Bitler set me straight. Mr. Bitler told me that the type of rainfall we have been receiving, an inch here and there, has been plenty for the Refuge because of its location at the lowest point in the Great Swamp watershed. Thus there has been plenty of direct rainfall and stream flow from the upland areas of the watershed to keep the Refuge wet this spring.

You may be wondering then, why the drought restrictions have only been eased

somewhat, rather than lifted altogether (see box for latest on restrictions). NJ DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell spoke about the drought restrictions in his address to the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee's annual meeting in June. He warned that the Department would have to be very cautious in lifting the restrictions because this spring's drought is part of a much longer running drought that has been going on since July 1998. Since that time the state has declared drought emergencies three times, once in December 1998, another in August 1999, and the most recent one this past March. Throughout the past four years these extremely dry conditions have been followed by periods of normal or above average rainfall, only to return to drought conditions.

As a result of this cyclical pattern we have been in, it is too soon to tell whether our spring rains signal an end to the drought, or just another brief reprieve. Thus the DEP believes it is time to take a close look at how the state allocates its water resources and make changes that will encourage, or in some cases require, people to become more conservation-oriented on a daily basis, rather than just during declared drought emergencies. Such measures may include changing how the DEP handles requests for water allocation permits (currently required for users of more than 100,000 gallons/day), the land it prioritizes for Green Acres acquisition funding (i.e., making lands in water supply areas higher priority), and deals with future residential and commercial development. ☼



## Southgate IV Rejected

By John Malay

The Morris Township Planning Board in a 7-1 vote, rejected plans for Southgate IV, a proposed development with more than 100,000 square feet of office space as well as a 15,000 square foot daycare center. Over a dozen variances and waivers would have been necessary for approval, including building height, setbacks and slope disturbance, most of which were caused by the fact that the buildings occupied too much of the lot.

When early phases of Southgate were approved (in 1980) the Planning Board resolution made specific mention of the remaining lot and ruled out future variance applications. Despite this, the applicant put forward a plan that required significant departures from the zoning ordinance.

The development would have impacted Great Brook, one of the main feeder streams into the Great Swamp. In addition, neighbors were concerned about increased noise and traffic generated by the expanded facility. ❁

Ms Julia Somers  
Great Swamp Watershed Association  
36 Main Street  
Madison, NJ 07940

May 19, 2002

Dear Julia,

Tomorrow night the Planning Board will memorialize its April vote – 1 for, 7 against – Southgate IV's proposal to develop its property on Southgate Parkway. You and your colleagues know how hard and long we and many others in our extended neighborhood worked to defeat this plan to turn the largest parcel of undeveloped land in our area of Morris Township into another commercial venture at the expense of already fragile social and ecological environments.

The consistent support you and your organization gave us helped turn the tide and produce a larger margin of victory than anyone could have expected. We remain adamant in our opposition to any development of this property; we know we can look forward to your support should it become necessary again.

Thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Smith  
William E. Smith

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## Garden Club of America Honors Julia Somers

On May 22, the Garden Club of America (GCA) presented Julia Somers, GSWA Executive Director, with a prestigious conservation award for “her wise and inspiring leadership and outstanding contributions” in the field. The award was presented at the GCA's bi-annual Zone IV meeting, which was held this year in Summit, and which included representatives from member clubs throughout the state of New Jersey. According to Janet Robertson of the Garden Club of Morristown, “Julia truly deserves this honor because of her tireless and inspiring work as an advocate for the environment.”

Julia has been Executive Director of the Watershed Association since 1992. During Julia's tenure, GSWA has grown from 400 to 2,200 members and funding has expanded ten-fold. In her letter nominating Julia for this award, Xandra van Bergen of the Garden Club of Morristown cited Julia's commitment to environmental organizations and initiatives and said: “For those of us who cherish the natural beauty and environmental importance of the Great Swamp watershed area, it is hard to envision for the cause a more committed, articulate, inspiring, and effective leader.”

Congratulations, Julia, on this well-deserved honor! ❁

# Watershed Association Initiates Municipal Liaison Program

By Ben Kingsley

Local public officials are the pipeline through which environmentally conscious citizens and organizations like the Great Swamp Watershed Association must travel in their efforts to promote sound decisions regarding land use in the watershed. These public officials, almost always volunteers, serve countless unpaid hours on local environmental commissions, planning boards, shade-tree committees, zoning boards of adjustment, open space committees, and as elected mayors or council members. Yet little, if any, formal training in environmentally sound land use planning is provided to these volunteers when they are appointed to various boards or commissions. The GSWA hopes to fill this gap with its "Municipal Liaison Program." Funded by the Leavens Foundation, the goal of the program is to create a sustained dialogue about smart growth techniques, and to provide vital environmental services and advice to local officials.

This new program, headed by GSWA Project Director Karen Patterson, will begin by informing local officials about the educational resources and technical tools that are available to the ten towns of the watershed. The educational resources include a wide assortment of publications the Watershed Association offers through a lending library of pamphlets, books, brochures, and videotapes. Officials can use these resources to learn about an array of new tools and technologies, including environmentally friendly "model ordinances" for land use and open space preservation; design techniques to preserve the natural landscape within residential subdivisions; and the application of "blue-green" technology (environmentally friendly ways to handle stormwater). The GSWA's technical tools include extensive expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) which can be used to map existing and planned open space, natural resource inventories, and build out analyses which show the potential for future development under current zoning.

A brochure detailing these resources and tools is being developed and will be sent to over 150 members of planning and zoning boards, environmental commissions and other officials in the near future. The GSWA is also exploring the possibility of creating an electronic-bulletin board service to facilitate communication and learning between the 10 towns of the watershed as they each face similar issues at one time or another. By taking advantage of the GSWA's 20-plus years of experience in land use advocacy work and our technical tools, local officials may become more proactive in their efforts to guide both open space preservation and development in their respective towns. 🌿

*Ben Kingsley spent the summer at the Watershed Association as an intern. He will be a sophomore at Princeton University this fall and is interested in politics and public policy.*

## Remembering Nancy Foster

By Julia Somers

On Sunday, April 21, 2002 Nancy Foster, a trustee of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, passed away. She will be greatly missed by me, personally, and by all of us here at the office of the Watershed Association who were her regular lunch companions.

Nancy was involved with the organization on a number of levels. As a trustee, she regularly attended meetings and shared her opinion freely, was an active member of the Development Committee – even though initially she didn't think she was in a position to help raise support for us, she was astonishingly effective on the Committee, asking friends and acquaintances to give to us – and was our Archivist. In that role, she undertook what turned out to be a massive task, cataloging articles, photographs and important Great Swamp documents going back more than forty years.

Nancy was also a trustee (as am I) of the New Jersey Environmental Lobby and she and I would car pool to their evening Board meetings outside New Brunswick. She would draw on her past experience in the New Jersey Statehouse as an environmental lobbyist for the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and always had something pithy to contribute on whatever was the political or environmental subject being discussed.

When Nancy first became a trustee, she was afraid she had nothing to contribute to the Watershed Association. Nothing could have been further from the truth. When urging people not to feel powerless and to get involved, I frequently use Nancy as an example of someone who really "made a difference" in environmental issues in our watershed and in New Jersey, just because she cared. You don't have to know everything to have your voice heard or to make an impact. 🌿



# Swamp Watch — Local Environment

## Madison

### **Madison and Other Municipalities File Suit Over Redevelopment of Exxon Site**

Madison, Chatham Twp and Chatham Borough joined together in May to file an appeal in County Superior Court challenging the Planned Office Development (POD) ordinance of the Borough of Florham Park. The POD ordinance, which Florham Park passed without deliberation on March 19, will guide development of the 475-acre former Exxon property at Park Avenue.

Officials and residents of the three towns, as well as those from Morris Township, Harding, and other surrounding communities, had attended the Florham Park Borough Council meeting on March 19th to request the Council reconsider the ordinance and incorporate changes to ensure a more environmentally and regionally-friendly development outcome. Despite three hours of testimony, including testimony from two planners, the Council passed the ordinance without discussion. The legal action was considered by the three towns to be the only remaining option in order to protect against overdevelopment of the site, which would increase traffic on residential roads, allow 60% impervious coverage, pave or build over groundwater re-charge soils, and provide a major incentive for the developers to seek and obtain a new Route 24 connector. The case is pending in Superior Court and no date is set for the hearing.

Although the former Exxon site does not lie with the Great Swamp Watershed, substantial impacts to the Watershed would be inevitable if the POD remains in its current form and development is allowed to proceed as established in the ordinance.

### **New Ordinances Address Stormwater Management**

Meanwhile, Madison's Planning Board has moved forward two new ordinances related to sustainable development. Storm water and steep slopes ordinances are now before the Borough Council and are expected to be voted on in the next few weeks. Based on model ordinances drafted by the Ten Towns Committee, the ordinances have been carefully reviewed by both the Planning Board and by outside environmental advisors.

*Judy Kroll*

## Long Hill Township

The Long Hill Township Board of Adjustment is once again hearing an application from the Great Swamp Greenhouse. The applicant, Michael Beneduce, faced a barrage of questions from both the Board and the public regarding alleged wetlands violations and apparent failure to meet requirements from previous applications. The applicant is seeking relief from all restrictions and citations for violations imposed by Long Hill Township, claiming that the municipality has no jurisdiction over farms. The applicant, whose 'farm' already involves 32 percent impervious cover from commercial retail greenhouses and associated parking lots, is seeking additional parking to bring the percentage up to 34 (the zoning permits only 20 percent). The runoff from the Great Swamp Greenhouses goes directly onto Refuge property. Yet, the applicant submitted no hydrology report, no calculations of possible pollution from pesticides and fertilizers, and no calculations of groundwater used in watering more than 3 acres of greenhouse plants with a private well. The next hearing is scheduled for August 20th.

The Planning Board is also hearing an application that has been before the Board and/or the courts for several years. The property, known as Rose Wood Estates, is entirely within the Great Swamp watershed with both wetland and steep slope limitations. In a conceptual hearing, the applicant proposed four houses (as opposed to the original seven), some repositioning of the houses to protect steep slopes, and offered conservation easements to limit any future development. The most notable environmental impact will come from the roadway and cul-de-sac that is almost entirely within steep slopes. Alternative plans had been developed both by the public and by other Planning Board members to route the road away from steep slopes, but Board Chair David Welch ruled that due to a recent Morris County Superior Court decision, the applicant must be permitted to use the proposed road plan. Welch also strongly urged the applicant to seek the advice of the Watershed Association and its experts to come up with a final design that would have as little environmental impact as possible. The next hearing is scheduled for August 13th.

*Len Hamilton*

# Hot Spots

## Bernards Township

### **AT&T Zoning:**

In March, at the request of AT&T, the Bernards Township Committee voted 3-0 to approve a zoning amendment designed to make the AT&T complex easier to sell. Despite objections of residents who expressed concerns about increased traffic, portions of two residential properties owned by AT&T were rezoned to E-1 to permit construction of a new 1,000 car parking garage without the need to obtain a setback variance.

In May, Pharmacia Corp. announced it would buy the AT&T complex, including the corporate headquarters, the Learning Center facility, and the adjacent AT&T-owned residential properties. Pharmacia said it plans to approach the Township soon about changes it desires to make, as provided in the new zoning. Total occupancy for the site is projected to be around 3,500, significantly higher than the maximum occupancy under AT&T.

In a report to the Planning Board, township sewer consultants stated that the sewage treatment plant should be able to handle this increase in use as well as increases in residential use projected as the sewer district reaches build-out.

### **Ridge Oak Update**

Ridge Oak has filed plans for a 2-story 34,500 sq. ft. building with 40 apartments on 6.28 acres at the end of Lindbergh Lane, adjoining the Ridge Oak complex. The proposed apartment building conforms with the site's new SH-1 zone and requires no variances. Under the 2002 court settlement, up to 48 units are permitted. Ridge Oak obtained a \$4.1 million federal grant last October to fund the project.

### **Just Outside the Watershed: Open Space Purchase**

Using \$500,000 of open space funds, the Township purchased 11.49 acres along the Passaic River on Haas Rd. The property abuts the municipally owned 10.2 acre "Pine Hills" property.

*Ann Parsekian*

## Morris Township

### **Delbarton Update**

The past few months have been very busy in the GSWA's struggle over Delbarton's proposed Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). The Morris Township Planning Board approved the revised Master Plan Review and zoning changes that would allow for the CCRC, and the Township Committee set August 14th as the date for their much-anticipated public hearing and vote on these changes.

Related to this vote, the Watershed Association recently lost a lawsuit that we filed in preparation for this vote, asking for the recusal of Robert Nace, a Township Committee member expected to cast an "aye" on the zoning change. In the lawsuit, GSWA contended that there is a conflict of interest on the Delbarton rezoning vote because Nace is an employee of the Morris County Park Commission, which oversees Lewis Morris Park, and is adjacent to the Delbarton property. John Sette, a County Park Commissioner and newly elected Republican County Committee Chair has publicly declared that he is in favor of the zoning change.

Finally, we have learned that the Township quietly forgave the Abbey the hookup fee for a sewer line to their school - a fee that all of the other private homeowners who hooked in were required to pay. The sewer line was built in 2000 with public monies to replace the Abbey's failing package sewage plant. That sewer line was built only after a Level III Environmental Review was conducted by the State and at the time, Morris Township made a commitment not to rezone the property.

*Ben Kingsley*

# Chatham

## **Superfund Status Requested for Rolling Knolls Landfill**

The Rolling Knolls landfill, which leaches contaminants into the ground and surface waters of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (GSNWR), may be on its way to clean up with federal Superfund dollars. In April, Governor James McGreevey sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency asking that the 187-acre site located off Britten Road in Chatham Township be listed as a federal Superfund project. 42 acres of the site lie within the GSNWR boundaries.

Such a clean up would benefit not only the visitors and wildlife in the Refuge, but also the communities that receive drinking water from New Jersey American Water Company. A branch of Black Brook runs through the toxic landfill, and the Loantaka Brook runs about 2000 feet from it. Eventually the water in these brooks, like all water in the Great Swamp, flows out the Millington Gorge as the Passaic River, the source of some of New Jersey American's water supply.

Rolling Knolls operated in the 1960s as Chatham Township's municipal dump and as a pharmaceutical dump. Contaminant outflow is a common occurrence from waste sites that were created before "sanitary" landfill regulations. New landfills must be lined with an impermeable layer at their bottoms, so that liquids remain on site. In addition, sanitary landfills pump up the "leachate" from the bottom, clean it and release relatively pure water back into local ecosystems

The Environmental Protection Agency, at the request of GSWA, completed tests and a report on Rolling Knolls in 2000. It found that "low levels of mercury, PCB's, and pharmaceutical compounds are present at the site, and these contaminants are leaching into the ground and surface waters."

A Superfund remediation would seal in or remove these chemicals, so that people and wildlife in the region would not be exposed to their harmful effects. The date or likelihood of a Superfund clean up is not yet known.

## **Storm Water Concerns for Oak Knoll's Proposed Playing Fields**

In late June, Oak Knoll School was scheduled to present to the Chatham Township Planning Board further plans for its two proposed playing fields on 13.4 acres near Green Village and Shunpike Roads. The current plan to fill wetlands and remove over 800 trees will make it difficult for Oak Knoll to meet Chatham Township's "no net increase" in storm water runoff ordinance. The school has hired Princeton Hydro to perform storm water calculations. In February, Oak Knoll gave a nod to the storm water problem by submitting a revised proposal that saved 50 trees.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) seems to be firm on its retraction of its previously-issued wetlands violation notice for Oak Knoll. In January 2002, the DEP responded unfavorably to Chatham Township Environmental Commission's September letter requesting reasons for the DEP's retraction of Oak Knoll's Notice of Violation (NOV) of the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act. The DEP stated that it could not prove that two of the wetlands on the property had been connected by water flowing through a pipe. "Efforts to obtain supporting documentation, including photographs, were unsuccessful," said the DEP in the January letter.

## **Planning Board and DEP Consider Sterling's Townhouse Proposal: Steep Slopes and Drainage are Key**

On July 1st, the Chatham Township Planning Board was scheduled to further deliberate the Sterling application to build townhouses on the 30-acre site near the intersection of Shunpike and Green Village Roads. Until the Planning Board gives final approval of the application, the legal suit brought by GSWA is stayed. GSWA filed a suit in December to appeal the Planning Board's decision to bifurcate the approval process. GSWA maintains that the Board did not have the legal authority to decide last October to approve a steep slopes variance separate from the rest of the site plan.

The GSWA continues to make progress toward preserving the natural drainage system on the wooded site by ensuring that NJDEP is thorough in its permit review process. Sterling recently provided the required alternatives analysis to the DEP for its stream encroachment permit and for its dam permit. GSWA also recently submitted its own alternatives analyses to the DEP.

In March, the DEP had rescinded the water-lowering permit that was to allow Sterling to drain the pond to make a clay-lined detention basin. The Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries had found that "The permit was erroneously issued prior to any review of associated information regarding the scope and details of the entire project." The DEP specified that the functioning "lentic" ecosystem, formed by the existing stream, pond, and wetlands, should remain in place to slow flood waters and filter sediments and pollutants.

GSWA maintains that Sterling's original plan for the detention basin would simply release 47 acres worth of untreated water into a pipe, which would hurtle it downstream through the Heyl property into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

*Kathy Abbott*

## Bernardsville

### 10-Acre Zoning

The borough was sued in April by two residents seeking to overturn the new 10-acre zoning law. The new law was adopted in March with the aim to conform with the New Jersey Development and Redevelopment Plan that prohibits development in environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes and wetlands. The suit alleges that the new law is "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable and not rationally related to a legitimate zoning purpose."

*Ann Parsekian*

### Charitable Giving Seminar

On Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at the Bernardsville Public Library, Lisa Berry, Vice President, First Union/Wachovia Wealth Management, will conduct a free seminar to members of Great Swamp Watershed Association on the uses of charitable giving in estate planning. The seminar is also open to members of other environmental organizations.

During the seminar Berry will provide an overview of estate taxes under the new tax act, detailed financial plans that illustrate how to effectively gift to your favorite philanthropic organization from both an estate and income tax level, and the uses of conservation easements in estate planning.

Charitable giving can take many different forms and can be as simple as donations of cash or property, or sophisticated estate trusts. We will publish a series of articles in *Across the Watershed* detailing some charitable giving options and their tax benefits. For more information about making donations to the Watershed Association, contact Development Director Bonnie Gannon at 973-966-1900, or [bgannon@greatswamp.org](mailto:bgannon@greatswamp.org).

For more information about Lisa Berry's seminar, contact John Carno 908-204-8998, or [jcarno@njaudubon.org](mailto:jcarno@njaudubon.org).



## Hellie Stowell

Hellie (Helen) Stowell, one of the original supporters of creating Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, passed away at the age of 89 on May 31, 2002. She and her late husband, Esty, were presented with the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Memorial Award in 1998 for their extraordinary contributions to protecting the Great Swamp.

A long-time resident of the Great Swamp watershed, Hellie moved to Morristown when she was eleven years old. She was an active volunteer for the Women's Association at All Soul's Hospital, later Morristown Memorial, as a nurse's aid. She was also very active with the Garden Club of Morristown focusing on civic and conservation issues, which earned her the Conservation Committee Certificate in Zone IV from the Garden Club of America "in recognition of her willingness to accept responsibility, her creative ideas, her gentleness of manner, and her encouragement to her companions in the field of conservation."

Hellie was a pioneer in the field of conservation and the impact of her work will be felt for many generations. ❁

## Save the Date!

### Fall Cocktail Party and Annual Meeting

**November 15, 2002**

### Silent Auction Donations Needed

It's not too soon to start collecting prizes to auction off at our cocktail party this fall. According to Development Director Bonnie Gannon, our annual silent auction is a wonderful source of revenue for the Watershed Association. Nearly anything can be auctioned off including gift certificates for stores, restaurants, spas, vacation homes and airline miles, and almost any type of service. If you have prizes to donate or have questions, contact Bonnie Gannon (973) 993-1900.

## Volunteer Needed!

There is an opportunity to volunteer at the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. They are in urgent need of a receptionist to answer the phone and greet visitors. Hours needed are Mon - Wed, 9 AM to 4:30 PM, Thu - Fri 9, AM to Noon.

If you would like to help out for some or all of these hours, contact Bill Koch at the Refuge at 973-425-1222. The Refuge Headquarters is located on scenic Pleasant Plains Road in Long Hill Township, in the very heart of the Great Swamp.

Tell them you learned of their need from GSWA.

Thanks!

# “Do The Swamp Thing” Gets Warm Reception on Chilly Day

by Missy Small

Although it was chilly, cloudy, and damp, 250 hardy souls turned out for the opening of “Do The Swamp Thing 2002” at the Morris County Outdoor Education Center on Sunday, April 21. This was the kick-off for a month-long celebration of the many and varied recreational and educational resources in the Great Swamp watershed.

Coordinated by Great Swamp Watershed Association, this year’s celebration highlighted family activities and raised awareness of the importance of environmental and historic conservation. On hand April 21 were Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, State Senator Richard Bagger, Assemblyman Thomas Kean, Jr., and Martin McHugh, Counselor to the Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

David Budd welcomed the honored guests and visitors to “celebrate the remarkable collection of resources in the Great Swamp watershed.” Congressman Frelinghuysen applauded the ongoing teamwork that first established the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and now protects it. Calling it a “National Treasure,” Frelinghuysen said he’s been working with Refuge Manager Bill Koch to put taxpayer’s money back into the Swamp, specifically targeting land purchases to add more acreage to the refuge. He also thanked “the many, many volunteers that make the swamp come alive, especially for children.”

Senator Bagger also spoke about the “remarkable cooperation among different levels of government, communities, and people to make things happen.” Talking about his bill that proposes exemption from

the state Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS), he continued, “there has been an unprecedented effort in the watershed by ten communities, to set an appropriately high standard to protect the environment; and they’ve done it voluntarily. This could become a model for watersheds throughout the state.” Assemblyman Kean thanked the non-profit organizations for the enormous effort they put into events like ‘Do The Swamp Thing’ and into protecting the watershed for all future generations who will call the watershed home.

Counselor to the Commissioner of NJDEP, Martin McHugh, announced that Commissioner Campbell and Governor McGreevey have written to Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and requested that the Rolling Knolls Landfill site in Chatham Township be listed as a Superfund site. A portion of the site (approximately 42 acres) is within the boundaries of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (GSNWR). Listing it as a Superfund Site puts the property in line for federally funded remediation.

From April 21 through May 19, “Do the Swamp Thing 2002” was sponsored by Great Swamp Watershed Association, Kings Super Markets, Inc., PSEG, and Recorder Community Newspapers. Special events were held at Refuge Headquarters, Morris County Outdoor Education Center in Chatham, Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey Audubon Society Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuaries in Bernardsville, and Somerset County Environmental Education Center and Lord Stirling Park in Basking Ridge.

King Super Markets advertised “Do The Swamp Thing” on their grocery bags throughout the celebration and Recorder Community Newspapers distributed “Do The Swamp Thing” supplements in their newspapers, advertised events, and ran articles about the promotion each week. ❁

## On your mark, get set... shop!

Terry Connolly, Director of the Morristown Community Soup Kitchen races through her 1-Minute Shopping Spree at the Kings Super Market in Morristown. The Spree was First Prize in the “Do the Swamp Thing” Passport to Win contest. The actual winner, Rosalie Strachen of Basking Ridge, generously donated her prize to the soup kitchen. Terry ended up bagging much needed food and supplies for her organization!



## Smile!

The Van Ryzin family of Madison poses with their new camera, second prize in the “Do the Swamp Thing” Passport to Win contest, donated by Madison Camera Shop. They are posed on the new section of trail boardwalk constructed at the end of Myersville Road in the Harding section of the Refuge. The money for the boardwalk was donated by a member of GSWA.



## Orienteering

Sunday, October 6, 2002

Orienteering with Hudson Valley Orienteers in Jockey Hollow. Details will be mailed this fall.

# 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.

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### Ongoing

Birding Field Trips at Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bernardsville, offer many opportunities through September for bird watching. Call 908.766.5787 for dates and costs.

Nature Walks every Friday and Saturday, led by Scherman-Hoffman naturalists. 8am-9am, at Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bernardsville. 908.766.5787.

### August

**3,** 5am: Sunrise nature walk, Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973.635.6629.

**1:30, 2:30, 3:30pm:** Colonial Money and Currency- learn about the history of coins and currency before and during the American Revolution. Morristown National Historical Park, War Comes to Morristown Gallery. Free. 973.539.2016 ex. 210.

**6,** 7pm-8pm: The Environmental Book Club- join us every month to discuss a book that has been, and still is, influential to the environmental community. Discussed this month will be *The Meadowlands* by Robert Sullivan. Environmental Education Center. Free. 908.766.2489.

**11,** 1pm-2:30pm: Wildflower Wandering- enjoy a stroll through Lord Stirling Park to see what flowers are in bloom, and learn about who is who in the plant kingdom. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Bring the whole family. 908.766.2489.

**2pm:** Reptiles with Bill Boesenberg. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973.635.6629.

**1 & 3pm:** Colonial Plants and Gardens- join a Park Guide at the Wick House Garden to learn about the interesting and useful plants grown. Morristown National Historical Park, Wick Farm. Free. 973.539.2016 ex. 210.

**13-15,** 11am-5pm: Harvest Show- judged show of flowers and vegetables, including family entertainment and plant sale. Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Free. 201.326.7600.

**25,** 1pm-2:30pm: Habitat Hikes- learn what living things need to survive. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Ages 7-9. 908.766.2489.

**1pm-5:30pm:** Twilight Delaware and Raritan Canal Paddle- kayak along the quiet, peaceful, and still waterway as the sun sets, and enjoy the sights and sounds the canal has to offer. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. 908.766.2489.

**28,** 10am-11:30am: Musical Messages - learn how animals speak to each other by exploring the lives of frogs, birds and insects. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Ages 7-9. 908.766.2489.

**31,** 1:30pm-3:30pm: The Tools of the Farmer- learn about and see a demonstration of some of the utensils commonly use around a farm in the 18th century. Morristown National Historical Park, Wick House. Free. 973.539.2016 ex. 210.

### September

**1,** 1pm-2:30pm: Butterflies for Beginners- foray into the fields and forests to search for Skippers, Red Admirals, Wood Nymphs, Cabbage Whites, and Monarchs. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Bring the whole family. 908.766.2489.

**6pm-9:30pm:** Nighthawk Watch and Night Hike- As darkness falls, we'll walk to field loop in search of screech owls and coyotes. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bernardsville. 908.766.5787.

**7,** 10am-12pm: Wonder Wanders for Families- Ever find something and wonder what it is, and then figure it out for yourself? That's the goal. Kids required. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bernardsville. 908.766.5787.

**8,** 12pm-4pm: Lenape Day- games, crafts, and information on the Lenape at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973.635.6629.

**20,** 7pm-8:30pm: Timber Rattlers of New Jersey- a presentation by experts Carol and John Knapp on the ecology and plight of these endangered animals. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bernardsville. Free. 908.766.5787.

**21,** 10am-11:30am: Treasure Hunt! Come on an adventure to search for buried treasure in the swamp. Learn to work as a team using a map and compass to navigate your way to a hidden surprise. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Ages 7-9. 908.766.2489.

**1pm:** Wild Edibles Walk- learn how to identify and cook wild, edible plants at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973.635.6629.

**22,** 1pm-2:30pm: "Gall Haul"- visit the fields and forests of the Great Swamp in search of the mysterious lumps and bumps that plants sometimes form. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. Bring the whole family. 908.766.2489.

**2pm-5pm:** Youth Hawk Watch and Bat Watch- come see some of the tens of thousands of hawks that migrate through North Jersey in September, and hike to the Hibernia Mine to watch thousands of bats emerge at dusk. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bernardsville. 908.766.5787.

**28,** 9am-12pm: Swamp Cycle- enjoy a leisurely bike ride through the swamp on local roads while stopping to learn about the plants, animals, and geological history of the area. Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge. 908.766.2489.

**29,** Fall Festival on the Green- food from area restaurants, merchandise, music, arts and crafts, children's rides, games, and entertainment. Morristown Green.

### October

**5,** 2pm: Likeable Lichens- find out all about the unique life of lichens. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973.635.6629.

**6,** 10am-4pm: Lord Stirling 1770s Festival- living history festival featuring colonial craftspeople, militia men, folk music, cider pressing, and hayrides. Environmental Education Center. 908.766.2489.

**26,** 5:30pm-7:30pm: Trail Tales- stop to listen to some scary, weird, and funny stories as you walk along trails after dark at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. 973.635.6629.

**27, 28, 30,** Halloween Night Walk- trail walks for children 3-6 with their parents. Environmental Education Center. 908.766.2489.

# Contributions & Donations

**The following have generously made donations to GSWA in memory of Nancy S. Foster:**

Naomi & William Ballard, The Bancrofts, Mr. & Mrs. Khoren Basmadjian, Dr. Marilyn Beaney, Mr. & Mrs. George Boyer, Mr. & Mrs. W. Stanley Brown, Michael Bucco, Barbara & Preston Christjohn, Nancy Conger, Linda Cullen, Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Cunningham, Ms. Sally Deatly, Stephen & Dorothy Dobish, Julie & Cal Dooman, Carolyn & Hal Eastman, Betty Fernekess, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fischer, Marie-Claude & Traugott Fischer, Dr. & Mrs. James Flanagan, Mary Foster, Carl & Marlee Frahn, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Gannon, Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Grove, Mr. & Mrs. William A. Grove, Jr., Ann & Tom Harrison, Beth Hazlett, Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Heller, Sally & Tom Henderson, Lillian Jean Henning, Ms. Chris Hepburn, Ingrid B. Hirsch, Deni Johnson, Ms. Catherine Keim, Iris and John Keim, Elizabeth &

Thomas S. Kelsey, Joan & Ken Kirsten, Kiwanis Club of the Chathams, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kling, Ms. Caroline Campbell Knott, Dirk & Gretchen Kuyk, The Lambertville Ladies Bookclub, Michelle & Chris Lowe, Denis & Carolyn McWhan, Mary & Bentley Merrick, Ms. Barbara Montague, Dr. & Mrs. Yoshinao Nakada, Margaret Nicolais, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Pomeroy, Anne Rittershofer-Neumann, Mr. & Mrs. Alan J. Robertson, Brian Rodwin, Anne & George Ross, Ms. Patricia Rush, Kathryn Singow, Elizabeth B. Stockly, Annemarie Tague, Joyce Tyrell, Joshua J. Ward, Kathy & Steve Wilkerson



**The following have generously made donations to GSWA in memory of Mary M. Cawthra:**

Richard V. Conza, Janet Ford, Theresa A. Marmo, Cecelia G. Morris, Cynthia Scott, Judith L. Strigaro

**The following have generously made donations to GSWA in memory of William W. Staplin:**

Robert B. Bourne & Carolann Clynes, Gil & Fran Owren, Mrs. Margaret Weldon

**Also:**

Mrs. Ann Marie Gibbons, John & James Gibbons, John, James, Stephen, Katherine & 3 grandchildren in memory of Marie Kelly Roberts

Diana Bourne in memory of Meredith & Donald Bourne

Ruth Eames in honor of "all wonderful volunteers"

Phyllis Creager in honor of Curt

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