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ACROSS THE WATERSHED

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Summer 2004

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 24 No.3

The Jockey Hollow Challenge

“Can You Survive the Ordeal?”

This fall, history will be made again in the Jockey Hollow area of the Morristown National Historical Park. On Sunday, September 26, 2004, approximately 450 professional and amateur cyclists from all over the United States will compete for at least \$5,000 in prize money on the challenging 3-mile loop within the park.

During the day, four different races will be held for professional and amateur cyclists. The professionals will compete in a 50-mile race while the amateurs will compete in 20-mile races. What makes this race especially exciting is that it takes place in an enclosed loop. This means that spectators can follow their favorite competitors during every lap of the competition.

Corporate sponsorship has been obtained from Navigators Insurance, Wyeth, Honeywell, Peapack-Gladstone Bank, and Shop Rite Supermarkets. Many other companies and individuals have also provided financial support, products or services for the event. Patricia Clew, who is responsible for organizing the event for the Great Swamp Watershed Association, said that she is still seeking additional financial sponsors to cover budgeted expenses of the event.

Ray Cipollini, the race organizer from Velocity Sports Management, and the Navigators Insurance Cycling Team, believes that the loop in Jockey Hollow is one of the most difficult racing circuits in the North East. “Any time a bicycle race has been held in Jockey Hollow, the outcome is the same; lots of anguish, pain and only the strongest competitors survive. Having World-Class Professionals competing in this year's event will certainly bring a new level of speed and physical punishment to this historic location” stated Mr. Cipollini recently. “Only the toughest competitors will be racing on September 26th, as the weak will just have to stay home. Those that survive it will remember it, much like the soldiers that braved the Winter of 1779-1780.” he added.

The Jockey Hollow Challenge marks the first time in more than ten years that the National Park Service has given its permission for a bicycle race to be held within the park. According to Morristown National Historical Park Superintendent, Michael

Henderson, the event has been approved because its proceeds will be used to support the Heritage Alliance for Tourism (HAT). HAT is a program of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. It is a consortium of organizations working to create a grassroots movement for heritage tourism and stewardship in Morris / Somerset counties.



Patricia Clew, Director of Membership & Heritage Programs at the Great Swamp Watershed Association, is hoping that the Jockey Hollow Challenge will grow every year

as bicycling continues to grow in the United States. According to Bikethisway.com, a source of cycling information, bicycling is the fifth most popular sport in the United States and the second most popular recreational sport in the world. There are more cyclists in the United States than skiers, golfers, and tennis players combined. Within the Great Swamp Watershed cyclists of all abilities can be found in our parks and local roads at almost any time of year.

This is the first time that the Great Swamp Watershed Association has been involved in organizing a large scale event like the Jockey Hollow Challenge. To make it a success, it will take the efforts of many willing volunteers. If you're interested in learning more about the race or volunteer opportunities, please contact Patricia Clew at (973) 538-3500 ext. 21 or at pclew@greatswamp.org.



GSWA former Trustee Richard Clew of Harding (with daughter Quincy); Trustee George Cassa of Tewksbury (with beer); Daniel Somers of Harding (with food); Darcy Clew & Trustee Michael Dee of Bernardsville enjoy the presentation ceremony at the 2004 Watershed Volunteer Dinner (see story p.2)

SAVE THE DATE!
Jockey Hollow Challenge
September 26th, 2004

Harding Mayor Receives Abigail Fair Good Government Award

On Friday, June 11, 2004 at their new headquarters in Jockey Hollow, the Great Swamp Watershed Association honored all of the volunteers that work so hard and enable the Watershed Association to function. The Abigail Fair Good Government Award was also presented to Harding Township Mayor John Murray.

According to Julia Somers, Executive Director of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, the Abigail Fair Good Government Award is given to an elected official who has high ideals and puts “good government” into action. Abigail Fair is a Water Resource Specialist at ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions), has been a Chatham Township Committeeperson for 15 years and was a founding member of the Watershed Association. Harding Township Mayor John Murray was selected to receive this award because of his outstanding achievement in the preservation of 65 acres in Harding Township that has been added to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



Watershed Association Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Blanchard of Harding makes opening remarks. From left: Cathy Borman of Basking Ridge; GSWA Land Steward Jan Malay of Basking Ridge; Executive Director Julia Somers of Harding Township; Bob Blanchard; GSWA Treasurer and Trustee Linda Wilson with her husband Blaine Wilson of Convent Station.

When presenting the award to Mayor Murray, Abigail Fair said: “I have had the distinct pleasure of working with John Murray and he brings terrific initiative, energy, and great ideas to each project. I am honored to present this award to him today.”

On receiving the award, John Murray said: “I am deeply honored to be standing here tonight to receive this award. This is especially auspicious for me since this is a great way to celebrate the passage of arguably the most significant environmental legislation in the history of the state, the Highlands Legislation.

I am also awed to have my name associated with some of the leading lights of not just watershed protection, but state-wide environmental protection, such as Sally Dudley, Sue Hoag, and of course Abbie Fair. When Julia told me I had been selected, I thought ‘man, I’d better get out there and protect some more

watershed,’ and I did, at least symbolically. At a ceremony a little more than three weeks ago, Harding officially transferred 64 acres of beautiful woodlands and pristine wetlands to the US Fish & Wildlife, culminating nearly three years of effort.

I want to thank the Great Swamp Watershed Association for this honor. Harding and the Watershed Association have enjoyed a long and productive collaboration and this award is a visible extension of a powerful relationship.”

Additionally, six Watershed Association volunteers received awards at the dinner:

- For several years Katina Ansen of Mountain Lakes has worked on the Watershed Association’s annual fundraising event creating fabulous visual appeal for our Silent Auction.
- Neil Borman of Basking Ridge has been a leader of stream team volunteers in their planning of what and how to monitor, as well as the monitoring itself in the watershed’s five streams.
- Michele Blanchard of Morristown has been an invaluable member of the Watershed Association for many years, hosting many events at her home including volunteer events and committee meetings.
- Gillette resident Roger Edwards has worked on many projects for the Development committee including writing grants and providing business membership and foundation support.
- Bernardsville resident Don Knudsen works on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects, often transcribing data into GIS maps for area towns.
- Anna Nagy of Summit has been working on the Watershed Association website, including designing, updating, and providing technical assistance. She has been working on the website for the past three years and is largely responsible for bringing the Watershed Association into the 21st century.



(l) Abigail Fair, ANJEC, Chatham Township Committeeperson; (r) GSWA Executive Director Julia Somers; presenting the Abigail Fair Good Government Award to Harding Township Mayor John Murray.

Across the Watershed is a quarterly publication of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. The Watershed Association 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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Christian Burset
Rachel Jutkowitz

From the Desk of Julia Somers, Executive Director:

Two major bills are on Governor McGreevey's desk awaiting his signature as I write – one long-awaited and very welcome; the other disastrous for the entire state, including the Great Swamp watershed. The first is the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act; the second is what can be referred to as the Easy Pass for Polluters Act (aka the Fast Track Bill.) As I write, neither has been signed into law.

The Highlands Bill has been a long time coming and we welcome it. It is complex and so many amendments were introduced at the end that no complete analysis is yet available on the Bill. However, some basics include: a council appointed by the Governor will draft a master plan within 18 months of enactment of the bill for the 800,000 acre region that is delineated as the Highlands. Of that acreage, about half will be designated as a preservation area in which strict protections will apply to development. None of the Great Swamp watershed or its towns is in the preservation area.

However, some of the watershed is in the remainder, the planning area, including part or all of Bernards, Bernardsville, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, Harding Township, Morristown and Morris Township. The goals of the planning area are to protect, restore and enhance the quality and quantity of surface and ground waters; preserve as much as possible environmentally-sensitive, recreation and conservation lands; preserve farmland, historic sites and resources; encourage appropriate development consistent with the State Plan and smart growth principles while discouraging piecemeal, scattered and inappropriate development. Municipal and County master plans in the planning area will be encouraged through the use of incentives, to be consistent with the Highlands master plan.

The Fast Track Bill accelerates the permit process to a 45-day window for nearly all permits issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Transportation in Planning Areas 1 and 2 of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. In the Great Swamp watershed, only Harding Township and Mendham Township will be unaffected by the bill. The 45-day window that will be afforded for all permit applications, means the public will lose any opportunity for comment on any of them, and most will be rubber-stamp approved, no matter how complicated, challenging, the size of the project, or its potential to harm the environment or public health. Appeal by the public of permit approvals will be costly and time-consuming, while a special process is set up under the bill to fast-track permit denial appeals. A special ombudsman with powers to overrule agency decisions will be set up in DCA to assist development proposals through the permitting process. The number of organizations opposed to the bill grows every day, and I cannot help but think that most municipalities should join that bandwagon. This is supposed to be a "smart growth" bill, however it is anything but that. The bill is a disaster for a huge cross-section of the state and the Governor should veto it. If signed, it will certainly be challenged in court.

On a sad note, July 11 is Michael Henderson's last day as Superintendent of the Morristown National Historical Park. He will be greatly missed as a leader who has reached out and worked effectively with many environmental and historical organizations in our region.

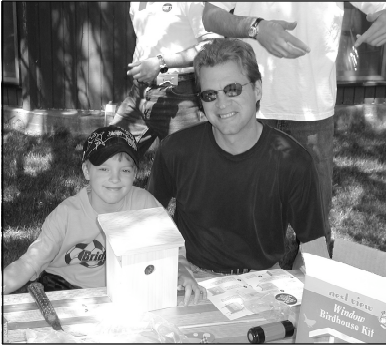


Wyeth Appreciation Day

by Christian Burset

Beautiful weather, a wonderful facility and several hardworking groups contributed to a successful Wyeth Appreciation Day on June 12. The Great Swamp Watershed Association hosted the family event at the Somerset County Park Commission's Environmental Education Center (EEC), in thanks for Wyeth's ongoing support of GSWA.

In his opening remarks, Wyeth CEO Bob Essner – whose wife, Anne, is a GSWA trustee – said the Great Swamp matters to him not only because of his corporate position, but also on a personal level.



"My family and I enjoy many activities in the Great Swamp on a regular basis," Essner said. "I hope today will give our employees a chance to see the opportunities around us, and to see why this area is so important to preserve."

GSWA executive director Julia Somers echoed Essner's hopes.

"Bob likes to joke that this is just a 'pretty good swamp,'" Somers said. "I hope when you leave today, you'll tell him, 'No, Bob, this truly is a Great Swamp.'"

Bonnie Gannon, who organized the event, praised Essner for being "personally supportive" of the Watershed Association's efforts.

"Wyeth has been an excellent example of how a corporation and its employees can work together with the Watershed Association to preserve the fragile environment in this part of New Jersey," said Gannon, GSWA's development director.

Gannon also thanked Catherine Schrein, the EEC's manager, for her cooperation in organizing the Appreciation Day.

The event offered employees and family members a variety of activities, including kayak demonstrations provided by Base Camp Adventure Outfitters and guided hikes led by volunteers Blaine Rothauser and Jack Donohue. EEC naturalist Rich Hoffman entertained and educated onlookers with a variety of the EEC's exotic critters, including poison arrow frogs and giant millipedes. Children and parents had the chance to work together to build birdhouses and door decorations.

Wyeth, a member of GSWA's corporate council, has been a longtime supporter of the Watershed Association. The corporation has been particularly active in the Adopt-A-Stream campaign to clean up Loantaka Brook, which runs near the corporation's headquarters in Giralda Farms, Madison. Loantaka is the most degraded stream in the Great Swamp watershed. Its waters exit into the Passaic River, which provides drinking water for over one million New Jersey residents.

Christian Burset is interning at the Watershed Association this summer. He is a sophomore at Princeton University and hails from Bernardsville.

Watershed Association Honored with Thomas H. Kean Partnership in Philanthropy Award

On Friday, May 7, 2004 the Great Swamp Watershed Association received the 2004 Thomas H. Kean Award from Partnership in Philanthropy (PIP). The award was given for success in utilizing PIP's assistance to its best advantage and achieving outstanding results in diverse areas such as mission and planning, financial management, marketing and public relations, and fundraising. Receiving the award for the Watershed Association was Julia Somers, Executive Director.

Partnership in Philanthropy was started in 1991 as an outreach program of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives. PIP is a unique cooperative effort between professional fundraising executives and grantmakers. According to Becky Dembo, Executive Director of PIP, "PIP helps nonprofits raise more money, so they can serve more people, which in turn makes communities thrive. PIP consulted with the Great Swamp Watershed Association six years ago and they have shown significant growth and measurable increases since that time and we are proud to honor their achievements."

On receiving the award, Julia Somers said: "We are very grateful for this award, and particularly appreciate the work that Partnership in Philanthropy does. With the help of their consultants and the hard work of our staff, we are in sound fiscal health, have a great engaged board, but we know that we can always improve on the work we do and the way we accomplish our goals."



(From left): Heath McLendon, PIP, who was standing in for the Hon. Thomas H. Kean; Julia Somers, Executive Director of the Great Swamp Watershed Association; Nancy Conger, Development Chair of the Great Swamp Watershed Association; and James Hohn of PIP.

New Addition to the Stream Team Program

By Rachel Jutkowitz

Ducking under branches, hopping over poison ivy, taking each others arms as we cautiously moved down a steep slope, Stream Protection Specialist Kelley Curran led volunteers, Jackie Wiegend, Luela Watkins, Gail MacNeil, and me down to Loantaka Brook off Green Village Road in Harding Township on Tuesday June 15. So began the first day of the Visual Assessment Program, a new addition to the Watershed Association Stream Monitoring Program. In the past the Watershed Association has focused on the biological and chemical assessment of our waterways, but never before on visual assessment. The Visual Assessment Program relies less on technical, scientific methods and more on human senses such as sight, smell, and touch.



When we weren't swatting at blood thirsty mosquitoes, the five of us managed to complete a visual assessment data sheet which will be given to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). In order to measure the width, depth, and velocity of Loantaka Brook Kelly slipped on her big, bright yellow boots and ventured into the stream. We took some digital pictures and drew our own sketch of the area. The stream had noticeable pools and riffles, indicative of a healthy, high gradient stream. Stream flow tends to be less in the summer time because evaporation rates are up and more vegetation exists to absorb the water. The substrate of the stream consisted of a mixture of boulders and sand. A cluster of brownish foam near the bank caught our scrutinizing eyes, as we thought it might be a possible sign of contamination. Kelley, however, assured us that since the foam did not feel soapy or slimy, it was a natural occurrence. For the most part, the water appeared clear and clean. We did, however, notice a significant amount of erosion on the banks. Some erosion is normal, but it is something we should keep an eye on in the years to come. Runoff from impermeable surfaces, such as roads and sidewalks increase the velocity of stream flow, which in turn, accelerates the rate of erosion.

Loantaka Brook is one of the five waterways which the Stream Monitoring Team will assess and turn the resulting data in to the NJDEP this summer. The other four streams we will monitor are Black Brook, Great Brook, Primose Brook, and the Passaic River.

Rachel Jutkowitz is a summer intern at the Watershed Association and is a rising junior at Muhlenberg College in PA, where she is an Anthropology major and is minoring in Environmental Studies. She lives in Harding Township and will be spending the fall semester studying in Rome and the spring semester studying in Australia.

We will send assessment data forms for each of these waterways to the NJDEP twice a year.

The purpose of our expedition was to collect data on streams within our watershed, which are currently not being monitored by the NJDEP. This information can be useful at the local level, the watershed level, and the state level. Monitoring our waterways allows us to assess the current health of the stream, while also allowing government agencies, such as the NJDEP to keep track of long term trends in water quality and check for any significant changes. Water monitoring also ensures early detection of any pollution problems so that something can be done before the problem gets too severe.

If you have a desire to get out in the wilderness, learn something new, and do some valuable work for your local watershed, contact Stream Specialist Kelley Curran, 973-538-3500 x 16 or kcurran@greatswamp.org. New volunteers are always welcome to the program. We'll teach you everything you need to know.

We're Not In Madison Anymore

568 Tempe Wick Road, the new home of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, was formerly owned by the Reynolds family. It's a nine-acre piece of land, with a five bedroom, four-bathroom house built in 1935 that was added to the Morristown National Historical Park in 2003.

The former Reynolds house is nestled among magnificent old trees and sits atop an open sloped meadow overlooking Tempe Wick Road. The house is very close to the Jockey Hollow trail system—Old Trace Road, which was formerly Tempe Wick Road, and will connect into Patriot's Path later this year.

According to Julia Somers, the house is ideal for the Watershed Association because it is not only within the watershed, but is very close to two Category 1 streams (Primrose Brook and the Upper Passaic River). Somers said, "We were so crowded in our previous office space that this is a major change for us and having this house will enable us to expand our educational and stream monitoring programs and possibly even offer joint programs with the National Historical Park. We are extremely grateful to the National Park Service, and Michael Henderson, Superintendent of the Morristown National Historical Park for making this happen and allowing us to move into this fabulous space."

"If you're in the neighborhood, please stop by and we'll be pleased to show you around" continued Somers. The new phone number is 973-538-3500.



Swamp Watch — Local Environmental

Bernards Township

New Land Trust Proposed

The Bernards Township Open Space Advisory Committee is working to establish a new local land trust that would help preserve additional open space in the township. The new land trust is being modeled after the successful Harding Land Trust and will be in addition to the existing municipal open space trust fund. The new non-profit hopes to increase the preserved open space in Bernards by means of donated land and development rights, by seeking Green Acres funds, and by partnering with the township.

Millington Quarry Hearings Continue

Hearings on the Millington Quarry Reclamation Plan continue, with 11 meetings so far, and more to come. In May the Planning Board was told that test borings were found to reveal no contaminants in nearly one million cubic yards of fill that were trucked into the site. The fill was trucked into the site over a period of nine years, but was never recorded, and was reported to the Planning Board only in December 2003. Another aspect of the reclamation plan that is being questioned are the steep slopes that will remain. Since the planned lake will not fill up as much as initially predicted, the lower water level would leave exposed as much as 70 feet of vertical cliff. At the same time, the smaller-capacity lake would give Millington Quarry an extra 48 acres to develop into an additional 17 building lots.

Demolition Derby

As of June 15, applications to demolish 11 homes and one commercial building in Bernards Township have been filed so far this year. At this pace, a new record for demolitions will be established in 2004. The circa 1740 Collyer house, one of three remaining 18th Century stone houses in the township, was demolished on June 16. The Bernards Township Municipal Building on Collyer Lane sits on property that was part of the Collyer farm.

Ann Parsekian

Morristown

Temple B'Nai Or: Situated on Overlook Road, adjacent to Great Brook and immediately upstream from Foote's Pond, the Temple's application to expand its facility finally ended on June 16. After more than 20 meetings, and in the face of intense opposition from the neighborhood, the Board of Adjustment voted to approve the Temple's application.

The Watershed Association presented extensive environmental testimony on how the application should be amended if Great Brook were to be protected from new stormwater damage resulting from the proposal. The Board adopted our stormwater design recommendations to improve water quality and control runoff from the site.

Peck School: Primarily in response to community concerns, the Board of Adjustment denied Peck School's application to expand from its current 85,000 square feet facility to a new 138,000 square feet school. Located on South Street, a number of existing structures on site were to have been demolished to make way for a new gymnasium and an academic link/library building. Interim classrooms in temporary trailers were to have been used during construction. Changes in parking were also proposed.

Even before the Morristown Board of Adjustment requested that they do so, the School consulted with Watershed Association about anticipated stormwater impacts that would result from the new development. We enjoyed a productive meeting and before being presented to the Board, the plan was adapted to include all the design improvements requested. The School obtained a waiver from preparing an environmental impact statement in exchange for consulting with the Association on environmental issues. While the application was not approved, this is a constructive process that has been successfully used by applicants for residential development in Bernards Township and Long Hill Township.

Julia Somers

Chatham Township

Grand Kirby Estate for Sale in Green Village

In May, Jeffrey Kirby put up for sale his landmark 72-acre estate at the corner of Shunpike Road and Loantaka Way. Many a real estate agent drives by this site to show homebuyers the beautiful features of Chatham. Developers, conservation organizations and the Open Space Committee of Chatham Township are all interested in purchasing the bucolic farm, a vast piece of open space across from the County-owned, often-overcrowded Loantaka Park and bike path.

Kirby stated that he prefers to sell the land to a family with children who are interested in horses.

Valle Estates Approved for Green Village

In June, the Planning Board granted final approval to Sterling Properties' proposed 56-townhouse development on a 30-acre wooded property at the corner of Shunpike and Green Village Roads.

While this site includes prime aquifer recharge soils, the Township's stormwater runoff ordinance (which is very similar to the new stormwater rules adopted in February by New Jersey) proved difficult for the applicant to design for. Stormwater runoff from a development on Rachel Avenue in Madison pours onto the property and has scoured out a deep ravine adding to the challenge of building on the site. Sterling Properties stated in May that they would like approval to provide stormwater infiltration at less than that required by the ordinance. Before the June approval, the applicants almost reached the ordinance's requirement of no net increase in stormwater runoff thanks to the assistance of Township Engineer Michael Bennett.

Sterling Properties original proposal in 1996 was for 122 townhouses with many bulk variances. The next proposal was for 96 townhouses. The current 56 townhouse proposal required a number of variances, including from steep slopes protection, which the Watershed Association vigorously challenged. NJDEP has mandated the dam that creates the pond on the property be replaced.

Peapack-Gladstone Bank Plans Building in Green Village

In May, Peapack-Gladstone Bank applied to knock down a two story office building on Green Village Road (next to Oak Knoll athletic fields) and replace it with a one-and-a-half story new building. Richard Schommer, engineer for the applicant, worked with Township Engineer Michael Bennett to design a stormwater detention basin that will result in less stormwater runoff from the site than under the current conditions.

The detention basin is slated to be part of the landscape at the front of the building and will handle roof runoff, since the soil doesn't allow natural infiltration. A sand layer and soil layer with plantings of grasses and wildflowers at the bottom of the basin will help filter out pollutants and slow down the stormwater outflow.

Though the new building is set closer to the road than the present building, and will need a front setback variance, the bank says it will improve the aesthetics of the property by moving the parking lot from the front to the rear. Parking spots will be reduced from the existing 22 spaces to 19 spaces.

Rolling Hill at Candace Approved

In June, the Planning Board approved a four-lot development on hilly Candace Lane. Builder Harvey Caplan has met the township's no net increase in stormwater requirement through a complicated system of graded swales, stormceptors, an underground detention basin, and a conservation easement. The underground basin measures 90x70 feet, which is bigger than the footprint of any of the proposed houses.

Originally Caplan proposed a narrow 20 foot conservation easement strip along the rear of the upper three lots. In June, Caplan agreed to provide a 180 foot wide, wooded conservation easement, which includes some steep slopes and excellent sandy loam aquifer recharge soils. Township Engineer Michael Bennett felt this swath of porous soil and vegetation would function as well or better than a further mechanical method to filter and hold storm water on the property.

A homeowners association will be formed to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the stormwater management facilities. It will have annual inspection and reporting obligations to Chatham Township.

Prior to commencement of any building, a dispute must be resolved between the developer and a private property owner downhill and across Meyersville Road. The neighbor is objecting to Rolling Hill's connecting into the County storm water line located in Meyersville Road, because that line then discharges onto their property.

Kathy Abbott

Long Hill Township

Environmentally Sensitive Construction in Long Hill

Long Hill has two environmentally sensitive construction sites that are worth a visit next time you are passing through the town:

One of them is located at the edge of the large parking lot at St. Joseph's Shrine on Long Hill Road about one half mile west of Meyersville Road. A state-of-the-art bioretention facility has been designed and installed by the Ten Towns Committee as a demonstration project. This retrofit is designed to improve the water quality and decrease the stormwater runoff from the existing parking lot. Once the special shrubs and wetland grasses have become established, the deer fencing will be removed.

Continuing westward from St. Joseph's Shrine, turn right onto Pleasant Plains Road, then right again to continue on Pleasant Plains. On the uphill side of the road, just before it turns down the hill into the Great Swamp, you will see several new houses under construction. Not an unusual sight in the region, but what is unusual is that you sort of need to look carefully to see the construction. You may recall from a couple of years ago that the Watershed Association worked with developer Michael Menza to come up with environmentally sensitive designs for these forested areas that drain into the Great Swamp. As a result of thoughtful planning, these large, upscale houses will remain surrounded by mature trees and dedicated open space. Nice job!

Len Hamilton

Mendham Township

Morris Area Girl Scouts: A public hearing will be conducted by NJDEP at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13 in Fingarr Lodge, Jockey Hollow Girl Scouts Camp on MAGSC's application to amend the Northeast New Jersey Water Quality Management Plan. The Watershed Association will be submitting comments.

Julia Somers

Morris Township

While there is no news to report at this time on Abbey Woods at Delbarton, Morris Township has recently complained in newspaper articles and its municipal newsletter about NJDEP's actions in connection with the township's application for a Wastewater Management Plan. Morris Township is one of a handful of municipalities in the state that does not have an approved WMP. A "credible and substantially complete" WMP application from the Township to the state is a requirement before NJDEP will consider Abbey Woods' application for sewer access for the proposed Continuing Care Retirement Community.

In March, the Township received a long letter laying out in detail the steps that it must take in order for its WMP application to be complete. Then, the Township Committee sent a letter to all state assemblymen and senators stating (among other things), "The NJDEP Regulations as written, demean the role of every municipality in the area of land use regulation." Commissioner Bradley Campbell of NJDEP responded by sending a letter about Morris Township to the same mailing list. He said, "Rather than promptly develop and submit such a plan [WMP] to the Department for approval once longstanding requirements were identified, Morris Township delayed and quibbled." Further, "Given this record of dereliction and recalcitrance, it is hard to give much credence to assertions about the "insight, diligence, lawfulness, and will" of the municipality."

The township's letter said it was seeking from elected officials the "assistance and support for our efforts to promote Smart Growth within the Township." The Commissioners response: "As for the "smart growth" merits of the CCRC proposal, I note that this development is proposed in Planning Area 5, where the State Development and Redevelopment Plan discourages new development. Notably, the project also would affect two exceptional value or category one streams, and a national park. I know of no smart growth principle that would support development of the proposed magnitude in such circumstances."

We are pursuing our appeal in Morris County Superior Court of the preliminary site plan approval of the CCRC by the Morris Township Planning Board; our appeal of Judge Bozonelis's decision affirming the rezoning of the site for CCRC use is filed before the Appellate Division. The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions has filed an amicus brief in support of our position.

Conclusion? There's a long, difficult road ahead for this application.

Julia Somers

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

Free Nature Walks: Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary. Every Friday and Saturday, 8-9 a.m. Meet at the Hoffman parking lot.

August

3, Environmental Book Club. 7-8 p.m.: Join us to discuss a book that has been, and still is, influential to the environmental community. A general get-to-know-you will start the hour, with coffee or tea, then into the discussion about the book of the month. Bring your ideas for other books to read in the future! This month: Looking for America, by Angus Kress Gillespie. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

6, Patterns in Nature. 1:30-3 p.m.: From a simple leaf to a complex snowflake, the number of shapes, colors, and sizes in nature are endless. By using our senses, we will discover the many colors, shapes, textures, and aromas of nature and use them in creating crafts. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

6, Insects of the Night Part II. 8 p.m.: By midsummer, the Cecropia moths have flown and their caterpillars are busy eating cherry leaves. However, other insects remain in abundance. We will begin this evening program by visiting the river and collecting and identifying aquatic insect larva. Then we will return to the lights and try to find adults of as many of the same insects as we can. Moths and other non-aquatic insects should also be in abundance. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary. 908-766-5787.

7, Family Picnic Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Support building restoration and educational programs at Historic Speedwell by attending this fundraiser, featuring a cookout, Victorian games, and entertainment. Historic Speedwell. 973-540-0211.

8, Blacksmithing Demonstration: Sparks will fly once again at Historic Speedwell! Kevin Perry will demonstrate and answer questions. 973-540-0211.

10, Aquatic Adventures. 5:30-7 p.m.: Who says kids get to have all the fun? This is your chance to play around in the ponds in this pond study for everybody! We will check out some of our "swamp" tanks and then go out and muck about. Get ready to get muddy. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

14, 28, Ribbon from a Tape Loom. 1:30-3:30 p.m.: Have you ever wondered how ribbons were made in the 18th century? Come to the Wick House and see a tape loom create ribbons. Learn the importance the tape loom held in the 18th century to families of all financial positions. Wick House. 973-539-2016.

15, Weapons of Colonial America. 1 and 3 p.m.: A variety of weapons including matchlocks, dog locks, flintlocks, spontoons and hangers were used during America's early history. Learn how these weapons were used and how they changed over the period from the early explorers in the 1500s to American Revolution in the 1780s. This program will include a blank firing demonstration of both a matchlock and a flintlock musket. Wick Farm. 973-539-2016.

15 (10-11:30 a.m.), September 12 (12-1:30 p.m.), Butterflies for Beginners: New Jersey is home to many kinds of butterflies and the swamp is a perfect place to find some. Join us for a foray into the fields and forests to search for Skippers, Red Admirals, Wood Nymphs, Cabbage Whites, and Monarchs. We will seek adult butterflies feeding on nectar or puddling, and their caterpillars munching their way across the leaves. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

17, September 14, Nature Hikes for Tykes Series I. 10:30-11:30 a.m.: It is never too early to begin exploring nature. Bring your tyke (ages 2-3 with parent) for a hike and activities that focus on using the five senses. All classes will consist of themed hikes, crafts, and hands-on activities. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

19, September 16, Nature Hikes for Tykes Series II. 10:30-11:30 a.m.: It is never too early to begin exploring nature. Bring your tyke for a hike and activities that focus on using the five senses. All classes will consist of themed hikes, crafts, and hands-on activities. Ages 4-5 with parent. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

21, New Jersey Geology: The Highlands—Ken Lockwood Gorge. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The South Branch of the Raritan River cuts deeply into formations of the Highlands as it passes through Ken Lockwood Gorge. We will meet in High Bridge and traverse the gorge and nearby tributaries as we look at the various rock types that are some of the oldest in the state of New Jersey. Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary. 908-766-5787.

22, Basically Bats. 7:30-9:30 p.m.: The only true flying mammals are often misunderstood and feared, rather than appreciated for their prowess as our best natural insect predators. Did you know that a single bat can consume approximately 600 insects per hour? So, pull the plug on your bag zapper and learn some bat biology. Class includes our famous bat quiz, slide show, lectures about bat ecology, as well as a field walk to look for these elusive nocturnal creatures. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

22, 29, September 26, Nature Walks, noon-1 p.m.: Each Sunday during the spring and summer, we will lead an hour-long interpretive walk. Each week we will focus on a different theme, so make these walks a part of your weekend routine. Pre-registration is not required. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

23, Riverkeepers. 10-11:30 a.m.: The mighty Passaic River sits on the eastern edge of Lord Stirling Park. It has been an important waterway for the people of this land for thousands of years. We will hike down to visit the river and see what role it plays in our lives, as well as the survival of the plants and animals that live there. Also, we will learn what we can do to help care for it. Ages 7-9. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

24, Warm and Fuzzy: Mammals in the Swamp. 10-11:30 a.m.: Mammals abound in the swamp, both the two and the four-legged varieties. Over 25 species have been recorded in Lord Stirling Park (not counting the horses at the Stables). Learn what makes mammals so special while we search for evidence of their activities in the fields and forests. Ages 6-8. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

24-26, Ocean Odyssey. 1-3 p.m.: Do you wish you could experience what life is like under the sea? Well, guess what, you can by joining us for three days to learn all about our wonderful resource called the ocean. We will explore this unique marine environment through experiments, activities, and studying some of the creatures that live there. Be prepared to dive in and get your feet wet! Ages 6-8. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

25, September 22, A Walk to Remember. 5:30-7 p.m.: Join us as we observe the swamp's cycles through the year! A Naturalist will guide you along our trails to discover and compare the swamp from one month to the next. You will receive a journal to record what you see and to reflect on the monthly changes. Come start your own phenology discoveries on a walk that you will truly remember! Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

26, Swamp Trek. 3:30-5 p.m.: Lace up your boots, it is time to explore some of our swamp's hidden treasures! On your mysterious trek you will search for the hidden marsh, a hidden boardwalk, and many hidden creatures. This off-trail adventure is bound to keep you on your toes! Ages 7-9. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

26, Bug Hunters. 1-2 p.m.: Join us as we explore the fields and forests of the Swamp to search for six-legged critters. We will see that most bugs do not 'bug' anyone. After our hike we will return to the Environmental Education Center for a craft. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

30, Washington Valley Exploration. 10 a.m.-noon: In the center of Somerset County sits 687-acre Washington Valley Park, straddled between the first and second Watchung Mountains. Join a county Naturalist to explore the trails and enjoy the scenic views of the reservoir. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

31, September 14, Round the World. 4-5 p.m.: Ages 4-6. Travel around the world with a Naturalist and explore the many different habitats on Earth. Discover the diversity of plant and animal life that is supported by our planet. We will play games and make a craft during our trip. So come to the Environmental Education Center and learn about the world! Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

September

1, Nuts about Nuts. 10:30-11:30 p.m.: Who is crazy about nuts? Squirrels and chipmunks certainly are! Come out and discover where they live, how they spend their time, and what they like to

eat. By the end, you too will be nuts about nuts! Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

4, 5-mile History Hike. 10 a.m. Hear of hardship, death, mutiny and triumph as you visit the places where history happened in a hike through Jockey Hollow. Walk where approximately 10,000 troops of the Continental Army endured the "hard winter" of 1779-1780. The hike is approximately 5 miles long and will last about 3 1/2 hours. Wear proper attire for the weather conditions, including good hiking shoes. Bring a snack and plenty of water. 973-539-2016.

4, 18, Wheel Action. 1:30-3:30 p.m.: Visit the Wick House to see how a sitting spinning wheel works. Learn the history of the spinning wheel and how the colonists used the wool industry to rebel against England. Wick House. 973-539-2016.

5, Patrolling the Passaic. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: The Passaic River begins life in the marshes of Mendham, flowing 90 miles in every direction, touching seven counties and 45 municipalities before it reaches Newark Bay. It has carried and fed the Lenape Indians and powered the Industrial Revolution. We care deeply about the health of this river. Join us on a special paddle on the Passaic where we will find out 'How Clean is Your Stream.' Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

7, Traveling with Seeds. 4-5 p.m.: Take a trip through the swamp to learn about the different types of seeds. This is the time of year that they want to travel. So adventure out and discover where the seeds are going. Ages 4-6. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

12, Highlights from the Collection. 1 p.m.: Get a behind the scenes look at Historic Speedwell with Collections Specialist Diana Angione. Take a special tour of the Vail House, Ironworks Exhibit, Archival Room, and the Collections Work Area. Learn about collections concerns such as environmental issues and exhibit standards. 973-540-0211.

12, Side Saddle Demonstration. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.: See how ladies and gentleman traveled in the 1700s. Side saddle exhibition presented by International Side Saddle Organization members Jacki Bradley and Susan Data-Samtak. Three mounted demonstrations followed by question and answer sessions. Wick House. 973-539-2016.

23, Traveling with the Wind. 4-5:30 p.m.: The days are getting shorter and the winds are picking up. Time to catch a wave and travel south like the birds. We will learn why some birds migrate and why other do not. Discover the challenges our avian friends encounter on their way. Ages 6-8. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

23, Trenton Marsh Meander. 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.: Barely one mile away from our state capital's golden dome sits a beaver lodge in the quiet wetlands of the Trenton-Hamilton Marsh. This large expanse of woodlands, tidal marsh, and streams has a rich history of human habitation. We will paddle into the marsh with the incoming tide, take a walk at Roebling Park and catch the outgoing tide back to Bordentown Beach. Afterward we will stop for dinner. Bring a bag lunch and money for dinner. Return time is approximate. Somerset County Environmental Ed Center. 908-766-2489.

26, Jockey Hollow Challenge. Please see the article on page 1 for more information on this exciting bike race!

Kids Paint “Swampy” Windows



Kings in Morristown Does The Swamp Thing

In honor of Earth Month and the “Do The Swamp Thing” celebration of family activities in and around the Great Swamp, students from the Unity Charter School decorated the windows in Kings Super Market in Morristown. The store window sported a variety of swamp life ranging from salamanders and herons to birds and plant life.

Unity Charter School is a public K-8 school for environmental sustainability and is open to all residents of Morris County. For more information about the school, call 973-292-1808.

Association Greets New Development Director

The Great Swamp Watershed Association welcomes Ruth Kerkeslager as its new development director. Ruth, a longtime Madison resident and graduate of Georgia State University, brings extensive experience in strategic planning, finance, and marketing. She is currently president of the consulting firm Information Futures. She has previously worked as vice president for corporate strategy for Lucent Technologies.

Ruth comes to GSWA with a diverse and successful history of community service. She currently serves as recording secretary of the Garden Club of Madison, vice-chairwoman and secretary of the Madison Shade Tree Management Board, committee co-chair for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and on the Friends of Madison Public Library board of directors. As the Millennium Gardens project leader for the Madison Public Library, she raised over \$80,000 in donations.

Ruth said she is excited about her chance to build on her life-long interest in the environment.

“I’m very excited about coming to the Watershed Association,” Ruth said. “My work for the Shade Tree commission and Garden club has given me a real interest in preserving our area, and I’m looking forward to contributing to the work of this wonderful organization.”



Kings in Bernardsville Becomes Swamp Site

In honor of Earth Month and the “Do The Swamp Thing” celebration of family activities in and around the Great Swamp, local children painted swamp life on the store windows of Kings Super Market in Bernardsville. Turtles, salamanders, herons, and a wild variety of plant life adorned the windows in front of the store.

Bernardsville residents seated from left: Sarah DeMarco 7 years old, Phoebe Ballard 8 years old, and Kate DeMarco 4 years old. Standing: Kevin Vernimb 9 years old, and Philip Vernimb 11 years old.

Healthy Endowment Means Healthy Watershed Association

A lot of the Great Swamp Watershed Association’s funding goes to talking about flow – the flow of stormwater, of sewers, of streams. One of the facts GSWA shares is that a healthy stream has a “base flow” – water that comes from an underground source, providing a guaranteed water level even through the dry months of summer.

Now the Watershed Association needs a base flow of its own.

GSWA relies on donations, which cover its operating costs and go toward promoting its educational and advocacy work. But the level of those donations can fluctuate from year to year, placing valuable programs at risk. To help smooth out these financial swings, GSWA is working to establish a financial “base flow” in the form of an endowment fund.

The fund began several years ago with a gift of \$250,000 from the Cassa family. After some time in a “silent phase,” GSWA began a campaign to increase the size of its endowment. In March 2004, GSWA asked all of its members to contribute to the fund.

The endowment has now reached over \$611,000 – a major accomplishment – but it still falls short of its \$1,000,000 goal.

To get there, we need your help!

Please consider contributing a tax-deductible gift of cash, stocks or securities to the endowment fund. For more information contact Ruth Kerkeslager, 973-538-3500 x 18, ruthk@greatswamp.org.

Watershed Association Bids Bonnie Gannon Farewell

The Great Swamp Watershed Association bids a fond farewell to Bonnie Gannon. GSWA's former development director has left the Watershed Association to become executive director of Project Acorn in Morristown, which places underprivileged children in nursery schools in Morris and Somerset Counties.

In her five and a half years at GSWA, "Bonnie has achieved some truly remarkable things," said Julia Somers. Her accomplishments include starting GSWA's corporate council, beginning the silent auction at GSWA's annual event, and building a larger and more active development committee. Bonnie has also chaired Earth Share of New Jersey, a workplace-giving consortium of environmental organizations statewide.

Bonnie said one of the reasons she enjoyed working at GSWA was the organization's impact on this area's quality of life.

"It is really a local cause," she said. "It's great to know your work is helping the people around you."

Despite her attachment to the Watershed Association and its work, Bonnie is excited about returning to education. She holds a masters degree in that field from Loyola College.

Contributions

The Great Swamp Watershed Association is extremely grateful for the Endowment Fund bequest gift from Miss Austin O. Hooley in memory of her parents, William C. and Edna O. Hooley. Our thanks also to Elizabeth Sanfilippo for her gift in memory of John May.

Donations

The move to our new offices in Jockey Hollow could not have been done without the generous contributions of many individuals and corporations. We are extremely grateful for contributions from:

Anonymous	area rugs with pads
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Arbesfeld	weed cutter
Mrs. Cam Cavanaugh	card tables
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Clew	area rugs, floor lamp
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Dan & Pam Harding	kitchen items
George Herkner	patio furniture, lawn mower, extension ladder
Dr. Terry Kidner	desktop copier, picnic table and benches
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Pfizer	shelving, floor lamps, folding chairs
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Wyeth Corporation	wooden desk units, soft seating, art work

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In This Issue

Jockey Hollow Bike Race
Abbie Fair Award Dinner
Stream Team News
Swamp Watch

p.1
p.2
p.5
p.6

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