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ACROSS THE WATERSHED

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Winter 2005

The Great Swamp Watershed Association

Vol. 25 No.1

David Moore Honored At Annual Event

by John Malay

On Friday, November 5, 2004, at the Basking Ridge Country Club, the Great Swamp Watershed Association held its annual cocktail party and silent auction to raise money for its environmental education and protection programs. In addition, David F. Moore received the 2004 Marcellus Hartley Dodge Memorial Award in recognition of his life-long commitment to preserving and sharing the riches of New Jersey, particularly land in the Great Swamp watershed.

Following the annual member meeting, attendees enjoyed the silent auction, which has become a highly anticipated event. With more than 75 items, the auction included a wide variety of fabulous items, such as tickets to professional sporting events, original art, dinner at area restaurants, vacation homes, and much more. This year, for the first time, there were door prizes. People at the event could make a donation in return for tickets. Prizes included an Apple iPod Mini, a DVD player, an American Express gift certificate, dinner at Meadow Wood Manor and a gift basket from Whole Foods.

This year's award winner was David F. Moore of Mendham Township. Trustees from the original Great Swamp Committee, the group that had led the successful effort to preserve the Swamp and create the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (and a predecessor to the current Watershed Association), banded together in 1969 and formed the North Jersey Conservation Foundation, offering the Executive Directorship to David. Later this group expanded its sphere of operations and became the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. David remained their

Executive Director until his retirement in 1999. His other accomplishments include working on the Pinelands Protection Act, the Open Lands Management Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act and the NJ State Development & Redevelopment Plan.

Mr. Moore was introduced by James G. Gilbert of Morristown, who has worked with him on a variety of endeavors over the years. Mr. Gilbert is currently working with a neighborhood group and the Great Swamp Watershed Association to help preserve land and protect the headwaters of Great Brook, one of the feeder streams of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Over 200 people attended the event, held for the first time at the Basking Ridge Golf Club in Bernards Township, with a view overlooking the Passaic River valley. For more photos of the event, look on *page 11*.



James G. Gilbert of Morristown had the pleasure of working with David Moore on a number of projects over the years and was happy to be able to provide an introduction during the award ceremony.

Volunteer Thank You

On hand to help out at the 2004 Annual Event were:

- Katie Beck
- Barbara Bilancioni
- Michael Drury
- Thomas Drury
- Christine Gallagher
- Tory Harding
- Pat Ryan

...and last, but not least, Katina Ansen for her artistic talents!



David Moore receives the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Award for 2004 from Great Swamp Watershed Association Executive Director Julia Somers.

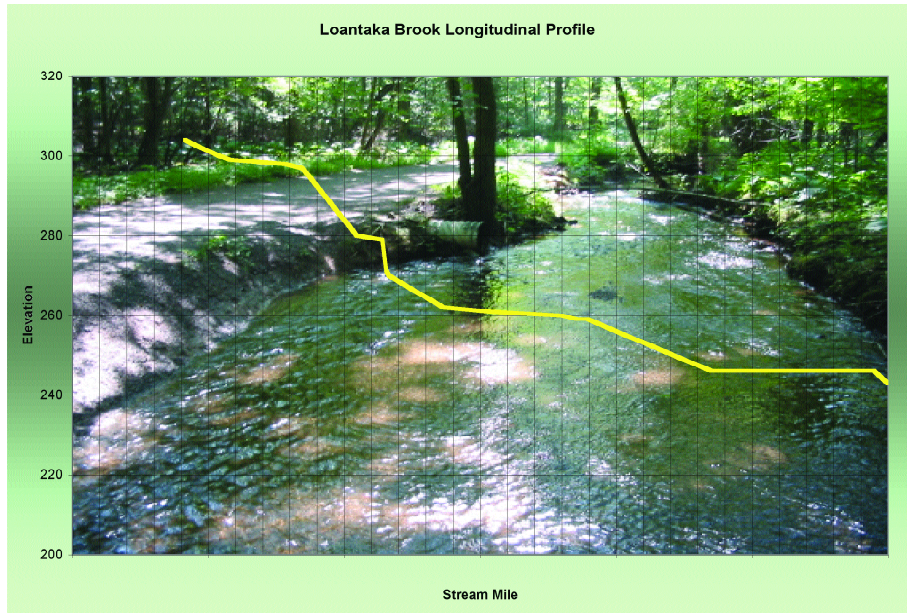
Stream Expert Helps The Watershed Association With Visual Assessments

by Kelley Curran, Project Director

The Watershed Association had the unique opportunity to consult with Robert Limbeck, Watershed Scientist at the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Limbeck has contracted with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to provide, free of charge, fluvial geomorphology technical assistance to watershed organizations throughout the state. We jumped on this chance to utilize Limbeck's expertise for help with the watershed's most degraded stream: Loantaka Brook.

In February of 2004 along with Julia Somers (GSWA Executive Director), Leonard Hamilton (Ten Towns Committee Chairman) and two very dedicated GSWA Stream Team volunteers, Gene Fox and Chuck Whitmore, I led Limbeck on a 'tour' of Loantaka Brook from its headwaters to just below Kitchell Pond in the Morris County parkland. Limbeck performed a visual assessment of current stream conditions and took notes and digital pictures along the way. Fox and Whitmore were able to readily identify problem areas for Limbeck.

Since February, several additional field trips have been made to Loantaka Brook. A number of potential non-pointsource pollution issues were identified, including stream bank erosion and sediment deposition in over-widened portions of the stream channel. Several projects were identified that may address immediate



Robert Limbeck (left), from the Delaware River Basin Commission, works with Watershed Association Trustee Gene Fox (center) and Stream Team Volunteer Bill Marshall (obscured in trees at right), on a survey and visual assessment of Loantaka Brook. Gene is not really that short, he's standing in the stream channel!

problems, including stream bank stabilization and creation of a sediment forebay entering the pond. 1,100 feet of Loantaka Brook located in the county park was surveyed with help from myself, Fox and Bill Marshall, another Stream Team volunteer. From this survey, a longitudinal profile of the stream was developed (see figure illustrated above). Seven cross sections in riffle zones of the stream were also surveyed. It is the Watershed Association's hope that Limbeck's knowledge and recommendations will lead to the successful restoration of Loantaka Brook. A successful revitalization there may well serve as the prototype for the implementation of similar projects on other streams that flow through the Great Swamp Watershed. For more information contact me at kcurran@greatswamp.org or 973-538-3500 x16.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

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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Kelley Curran
Ruth Kerkeslager

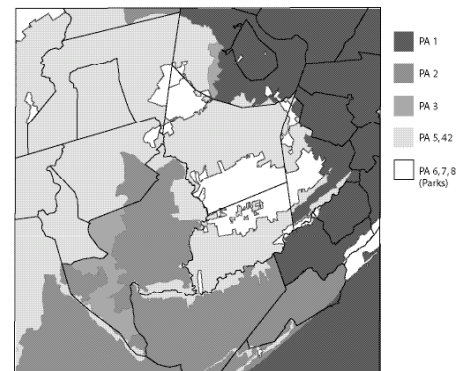
The beginning of a new year is often a time of change and provides an opportunity for us to make resolutions. This new year 2005 is no different, with some big changes and great opportunities confronting us.

The newly appointed Highlands Council has just begun to meet, hire staff and begin to consider the enormity of the Highlands Protection Act that guides them. Its headquarters are nearby in the old Telcordia Building in Chester (known locally as the telephone pole farm!) We have strong representation on the Council from our part of Morris and Somerset Counties, including Freeholder Director (and Mendham Township Committeeman) Jack Schrier; Mayor Ben Spinelli of Chester Township; the Honorable Mikael Salovaara, President of the Bernardsville Borough Council; Kurt Alstede, Chester farmer and Scott Whitenack, Chairman of the Morristown Planning Board. This historic law will protect drinking water for over 5.4 million people and help preserve more of New Jersey's dwindling open space. Of our watershed communities, only Madison, Chatham Township and Long Hill are not affected by the legislation. The legislation will not be easy to implement. We hope that the Council is not distracted by extraneous issues and that it holds true to the legislation's intent as the Plan for the Region is developed.

The "Fast Track" legislation is another new law for which we have a profound resolve – that it be completely repealed!! The Watershed Association is part of the Save New Jersey Coalition which is a fast growing coalition of over 50 civil rights, environmental, labor, religious, housing and land preservation groups. The Coalition is dedicated to the repeal of the "Permit Streamlining in Smart Growth Areas" Law (S1368/A3008), as well as advancing environmental and public health protections. Fast Track, with its failure to provide for any public process in what will be automatic approval of a broad range of permits, is likely to violate the U.S. Constitution and numerous federal laws as well as exacerbate existing problems with the State budget, local budgets, local property taxes, and the general economy.

There are new faces to welcome to elected office in the watershed and others leaving office whom we wish well and hope they stay in touch. New in Chatham Township are Democrats Jack Hartford and Nicole Hagner; in Long Hill, Democrat Gina Genovese has joined the Committee; in Mendham Township, Republican Phyllis J. Florek joins the Committee; in Mendham Borough Republicans Barbara Stanton and David Murphy join the Council; and in Bernardsville, Republican Jay Parsons has become Mayor and Republican Michael Landau will join the Council. One of their greatest challenges while in office will be to help protect the environment and history of this remarkable region; the Great Swamp Watershed Association can answer questions and provide help wherever needed, whenever asked.

My final resolution is that all our members and their families enjoy a happy and safe New Year. We are lucky to live in this beautiful place and I count my blessings every day.



Regional Centers (Morristown) and Planning Areas 1 & 2 (the darker shadings) are subject to "Fast Track" regulations.

Hat's Off!

by Patsy Clew, Director of Heritage Programs

This year saw the birth of a new initiative at the Great Swamp Watershed Association, called *Heritage Programs*. Heritage programs have been created to encourage visitation of our area's most special resources. When people visit a cultural, natural or historical site, they have a stronger appreciation of the value that these resources bring to their lives and communities. The goal of heritage programs is to create stronger stewards for "the places we love."

The first initiative of Heritage Programs is an organization called HAT, or the *Heritage Alliance for Tourism*. Created in the fall of 2003, the organization is guided by a Steering Committee of organizations that have come together for the purpose of promoting heritage tourism in the region. Members of the Steering Committee include the Morris County Park Commission, Somerset County Park Commission, Morristown Partnership, Morris Tomorrow, Heritage Trail Association, Morristown National Historical Park, Morris County Visitors Center, the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

The goal of HAT in 2004 was to raise public awareness about the value of heritage tourism. HAT was introduced to the public via its first press release published in Recorder newspapers in February. This release was followed by three editorial columns written by HAT members that discussed the idea of heritage tourism, its value to communities and tourism in New Jersey. A fourth piece on Holly Walk in Morristown appeared in early December.

In August, HAT introduced the concept of Heritage Tourism to twenty-six different organizations in a Lunchtime Forum at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Barry Denk from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania spoke about the rewards that the state of Pennsylvania reaps from the impact of heritage tourism. The session was attended by more than forty individuals. Additional forums are planned for 2005 as well as a series of lectures.

On Sunday, September 26, 2004, the Great Swamp Watershed Association held the first *Jockey Hollow Challenge* professional bike race in the Jockey Hollow area of the National Historical Park. The event, to benefit Heritage Programs, was designed to bring cyclists and spectators from within and outside the area to one of our area's most special resources. It is also intended to be a fundraiser to support the activities of HAT. The day was beautiful, feedback from cyclists and sponsors was very positive and all involved look forward to organizing the event next year!

In its inaugural year, HAT created a strong, cohesive partnership of organizations committed to moving heritage tourism forward in this region of New Jersey! Looking forward to 2005, HAT will offer additional forums on the value of heritage tourism to business owners, municipal officials and non-profit organizations and will continue to raise the level of public awareness for the "places we love".



Ten Towns Great Swamp Committee Gets Federal Grant

Leonard W. Hamilton, chairman of the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee, has announced the receipt of a US government grant for \$250,000

"We intend to use these funds to continue our eight-year program of water-quality monitoring and conduct a comprehensive headwaters study of Loantaka Brook, the most impaired of the five tributary streams," he said. (See page 2 for an article on what the Watershed Association is doing to monitor Loantaka Brook.)

Hamilton praised the efforts of Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-District 11) who helped secure the grant.

The Committee was founded in 1995 and is made up of representatives from each of the ten municipalities within the Watershed as well as Morris & Somerset Counties and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

New Video Available

"After The Storm", a video co-produced by the EPA and *The Weather Channel* is available for loan from the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Aimed at a level suitable for middle school, high school and adult, the video uses three case studies (Los Angeles County/Santa Monica, New Orleans and New York City) to illustrate the problems that cause non-pointsource pollution of our water supplies, rivers, coastal waters and reservoirs as well as possible solutions to those problems.

To borrow, contact Hazel England at hazele@greatswamp.org or 973-538-3500 x20.

GSWA Conservation & Restoration Area

A management plan is in the works for the GSWA's Conservation Area. With the help of steadfast volunteers, Blaine Rothauser and Frank Stillinger, some new volunteers and several land management professionals, we are developing a comprehensive management plan for the 23 acre former La Barre property. The comprehensive plan will address short, medium and long term goals for the site, and will include invasive species management, deer exclosures, interpretation, volunteer management at the property, and developing the trail system to link with the other adjoining properties owned by the Watershed Association.

This year has seen several grants and volunteer workdays improve the site and we wish to acknowledge the following corporations who helped: Starbucks, Aventis, and Johnson & Johnson. With the aid of the staff of the Morris Land Conservancy, and Blaine Rothauser, Frank Stillinger and Hazel England, these volunteers extended and preserved the simple plank boardwalk by 150', removed invasive species from another 2 acre area, maintained deer exclosures around the native plantings in the area, and generally pruned, cut and snipped to slowly wrest additional areas from the invasive species which had predominated.

Three kiosks now grace the entrance to the property and a monthly Natural History "what's happening", posted by Blaine allows the casual hiker to learn more about this fascinating site. If you haven't visited recently, take a walk on the property, accessed from Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Township. You will need waterproof footwear, but the walk is worth the water! There is even a beautiful handmade bench to rest and admire the numerous wildlife nesting boxes that have been erected on the site. If winter weather holds you inside, check out the virtual tour of the property at the GSWA web site(www.greatswamp.org).



Watershed Association Selects New Trustees, Thanks Departing Board Members

The Great Swamp Watershed Association held its Annual Meeting on November 5th at the Basking Ridge Country Club in Bernards Township.

The following persons have been elected to the Board of Trustees for 2005:

Dan Harding, has been actively involved with the Watershed Association for many years and has previously served on the Board. He has chaired the Nominating Committee for several years and has also served on the Steering and Finance Committees. He is a senior advisor for the investment firm of Harding Loevner Management, having co-founded the firm in 1989. He resides in Basking Ridge.

Edward Kirby, Ph.D. has also served previously as a trustee, resides in Basking Ridge and is a Professor and Dean at Rutgers University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He has chaired the GSWA Science & Technology Committee since its inception, and has also served on the Land Use, Steering, and Development Committees.

Dorothea Stillinger has been a GSWA volunteer since 1995, is a former Board member, and is a retired Bell Labs computer consultant. She resides in Chatham Township and chairs the Environmental Commission there. She has served on the GSWA Finance and Steering Committees, as past chair of the Land Use Committee and as Treasurer.

Mark Strickland is currently the corporate environmental issues manager at PSEG, which is a member of our Corporate Council. He resides in Hanover Township.

Going off the Board after many years of service to the Watershed Association are:

- Bob Blanchard of Harding Township and out-going Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Nancy Conger of Long Hill Township, out-going chair of the Development Committee
- Julie Keenan of Summit
- Linda Wilson of Morris Township, out-going Treasurer

Our thanks to all of them.

Enhancements to the GSWA Conservation and Restoration Area include a new program of signs identifying specimen trees and other plant life. These are visible from the pathways that run through the site.

There are currently several miles of trails on the property, with boardwalks over the wettest spots. The goal of the project is to provide access to all the points of natural interest throughout the more than 20 acres of property. Eventually these trails will hook up to paths on adjacent land owned by the township.

Swamp Watch — Local Environmental

Morristown & Morris Township

Cross Acceptance for State Development and Redevelopment Plan:

The Watershed Association recommended that both Morristown and Morris Township work through the cross acceptance process to delineate all mapped and unmapped streams in their communities, and their riparian corridors, as Critical Environmental Sites (CES.) Despite support from its Environmental Commission, Morris Township's Planning Board sent the recommendation to its Technical Coordinating Committee, and indicated that they are unlikely to approve the request. Morristown's Environmental Commission and Planning Board approved the request and included it in their cross acceptance recommendations made to Morris County and the State Office of Smart Growth.

Approved CES in Planning Areas 1 and 2, and in Regional Centers, would be exempt from the state "Fast Track" regulations presently under review. Morris Township has extensive Planning Areas 1 and 2 throughout the township (including in the Great Swamp watershed); Morristown is designated a Regional Center.

Washington Valley

The Washington Valley is part of a large environmentally sensitive area that includes extensive land holdings in the Great Swamp watershed and in the Whippany watershed. The Valley is also the site of the proposed Abbey Woods at Delbarton CCRC next to the Jockey Hollow Section of the Morristown National Historical Park.

Over the course of three Planning Board meetings this fall, Morris Township professional staff and Board members promoted changing the Planning Area designation of the Washington Valley from its present designation of PA5 to PA3. PA5 is a designation given in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan to the most environmentally sensitive or historically significant areas of the state. (By comparison, Flemington is a PA3.) PA3 typically has sewer service and is more densely developed but does not have the population density of PA1, 2 or regional centers. At the third meeting, the Board decided that it would not pursue the change at this time, but "reserved the right" to do so during the Plan Endorsement phase of State Plan cross acceptance.

Julia Somers

Bernards Township

33 North Finley Avenue

In 2003 the Planning Board allowed a subdivision of this property with the proviso that the existing 18th Century home have a Historic easement placed on the facade facing the street. A prospective buyer now wants to do a renovation that substantially alters the facade. A 3-2 majority of the township committee appears to be willing to allow this serious alteration to take place, despite the easement, and instructed the township engineer to send a letter to the owner stating this. (No one on the committee nor the township engineer is a licensed historic architect.) Hopefully, qualified persons will be consulted on the project. The house is one block from downtown Basking Ridge.

Cross Acceptance

In a document submitted as part of the Cross Acceptance process, the township has asked that areas within the Planning Area 3 designation become PA 5. A number of Critical Environmental Sites (CES) were also identified, including the Millington Quarry.

In a related move, the township Sewer Authority is submitting a request to the NJDEP to remove certain wetland areas from the Sewer Service Area.

John Malay

Mendham Township

The Morris Area Girl Scout Council wants Final Planning Board approval of their camp project before getting their NJDEP NJPDES permits. While Planning Boards sometimes issue *Preliminary* approvals conditional on receipt of DEP permits, the Watershed Association is unaware of anyone being issued *Final* approvals without permits in place.

Currently the local Construction Official has stated he will not issue building permits without state paperwork in hand. He *may*, however, allow some work to be performed that would not be affected one way or the other by the permits.

John Malay

Bernardsville

Lancor on Ballantine Road

In June 2004 NJDEP terminated a wetlands general Permit No. 10 and Transition Area Waiver Averaging Plan on this property. Based on a site inspection, the Department had discovered additional wetland areas on the site and required Lancor to cease all regulated activities affected by the loss of the permit or Averaging Plan. Lancor has reportedly sued NJDEP, and on November 4, 2004 asked the Department to approve a five-year extension of the original Letter of Interpretation. The Bernardsville Environmental Commisison has written the Department voicing its concern about Lancor's request and asking that it be given an opportunity to comment on any action proposed by either applicant or NJDEP.

Julia Somers

Long Hill Township

A summer-long construction project has culminated in a new bridge on White Bridge Road. The stone-faced structure spans a tributary of Black Brook.

After several postponements, the Morris County Agricultural Development Board has scheduled a hearing on Jan. 17, 2005 to consider the Agricultural Management Plan for the Great Swamp Greenhouses. The applicant has requested numerous changes in operation of the large retail gardening center based on the Right to Farm act. Long Hill Township has prepared a detailed report and will be challenging many aspects of the Agricultural Management Plan, particularly in those areas where the plan would be in violation of municipal zoning ordinances and the town's Master Plan.

Len Hamilton

Chatham Township

Township Moving Ahead to Preserve the Scenic Kirby Farm

This Fall the Chatham Township Committee voted 4-1 to proceed with Morris County and Green Acres funding in partnership with the Morris County Park Commission and the Great Swamp Watershed Association. They will acquire 40 acres of the Kirby Estate and a conservation easement on the remaining 32 acres.

The 40 acres that will be owned outright by the Township will be restricted to uses that promote environmental conservation, such as horseback riding, nature study and a pedestrian path.

The Township will purchase a 32-acre conservation easement on the remaining lot that contains the house, horse barn, pond, pool and other farm structures. With a conservation easement, this will be sold privately.

Magla Products Site Remains for Sale

In October, the Darcy School of Livingston withdrew its plans to build a 240-student school on the former Magla Products site, a 15-acre wooded property at 700 Shunpike Road near Loantaka Way. The property is zoned residential but in the past was given a conditional use variance for TransWorld Radio, a non-profit company, and then for Magla Products, a for-profit company that had promised a limited number of employees and parking spaces.

Former Schoolhouse on Lafayette to be Demolished; Two Houses in its Place

The four story former schoolhouse at the corner of Lafayette and Floral Avenue most likely will be demolished and two houses built in its place. In October, the Lyons family, which has owned the home for 50 years, applied to the Planning Board for a minor subdivision. Mr. Lyons proposes two lots, and one needs a variance because it is smaller than the required 20,000 square feet. The other proposed lot is fully conforming to the 20,000 square foot zoning. The builder rejected the idea of building one large home instead of two, even though there are other single family homes in the neighborhood on 40,000 square foot lots.

Chatham's "no net" stormwater runoff ordinance will apply to this subdivision. Lyons has proposed drywells to recharge all roof runoff from the two new homes. The Planning Board waived the Environmental Impact Statement because there are no flood areas, wetlands or steep slopes.

Chatham Township continued...

NJCF Property

Everyone is waiting for the township to order and complete an environmental inspection on the property sold to the township by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. NJCF wants the Watershed Association to hold a conservation easement on this property.

Ormont Road

A developer wants to build two houses on a very steep slope. The Planning Board seems inclined to support this application despite having fought other applications with steep slope issues.

Kathy Abbott

Harding Township

Rural Residential Zone

A Rural Residential Zone ordinance was unanimously approved by the Township Committee after extensive hearings by the Planning Board and the Committee. The new zone affects nearly 75% of the Township and increases the land required for a lot from 3 to 5 acres, thus reducing the maximum number of homes that could be built in the Township. Reasons cited for this action included protection of ground and surface water quality, preservation of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (which lies downstream on all township streams) and protecting the rural character of the town.

Lyall property subdivision on Sandspring Road

Harvey Caplan and Woodmont Properties have an application to subdivide this more than 25 acre property. They had originally proposed six conforming lots, but with the new zone now propose five. An issue of particular concern is access to four of the five lots, which are located on the top of the hill in the woods. If the private road is to be no more than 12% grade, the applicant must raise it and create extensive, multi-stepped retaining walls. Other issues of concern include protecting the view of this highly-visible property from the road, stormwater management, retention of the existing bridlepath, and preservation of forest cover.

Lancor on Meyersville Road

This property has extensive wetlands (both exceptional and intermediate value) and vernal pools, and documented threatened and endangered species identified as being present. One house has been built; the owner wishes to subdivide a second lot. The Planning Board is expected to review an application shortly. Among other things, GSWA and neighbors are concerned about exacerbation of existing flooding and stormwater management problems, and loss of prime threatened and endangered species habitat.

Julia Somers

Trend is Emerging Toward Planned Giving

by Ruth Kerkeslager, Director of Development

Like non-profit organizations across the US, the Great Swamp Watershed Association receives contributions from both foundations and corporations, but depends primarily on contributions from individuals. According to *Giving USA*, individuals provide the greatest percentage of all charitable funding, usually about 80%. We are extremely appreciative of all our donors have given us over the years. Your contributions of both time and money have sustained us and helped us to continue to preserve and protect the land we love and the water we drink in the ten towns within the Great Swamp watershed

In addition to contributions to help fund day-to-day operations, you have an opportunity to invest in the Watershed Association's future, to enable our organization to advance its important mission for years to come.

Integrating sound personal, financial, and estate planning with your plans for charitable giving is often referred to as planned giving. This kind of gift giving enhances the impact of your lifetime philanthropy while providing a more secure future for your loved ones. Careful estate planning preserves your wealth, lowers estate and income taxes, perpetuates your values, and provides for your family and loved ones.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to the Watershed Association, but some of the most popular are:

- **Your Will and Estate Plan:** Providing for the Watershed Association in your will, living trust, or other estate plan represents a gift that will help our future ability to preserve and protect the land we love and the water we drink for future generations. A bequest is one of the easiest and most cost effective ways of ensuring that your family and friends are provided for while helping the Watershed Association for years to come.
- **Stocks & Bonds:** Another great way to donate to the Watershed Association is to contribute bonds, appreciated stocks, or mutual fund shares. With gifts of stock you can avoid capital gains taxes, get a substantial income tax savings and you may avoid estate taxes.

There are many other financial options such as gift annuities, charitable trusts, pooled income funds, life insurance, and gifts of land. All of the above contributions to the Watershed Association are tax deductible. Discuss all of these options with your financial advisor or estate planner, and see what is best for you.

Your planned gift allows you to make a commitment to preserve and protect the land we love and the water we drink for future generations. Please consider a long-lasting legacy. Whether you are interested in making a gift now or are contemplating future gifts to the Watershed Association, please call Ruth Kerkeslager, Development Director, at 973-538-3500 x18, to discuss your interests and learn more about opportunities to support the Watershed Association's critical work.

Silent Auction Donors

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations.
This year once again the Silent Auction was a resounding success.

Saverio Alloco, *L'Allegria*
Marshall Bartlett
Bella Rosa
The Bird House in Madison
Michele and William Blanchard
Bob and Ginger Blanchard
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
Sharon Boscarino, *Ruby's*
Mariel Bossert, *Lyrica Chamber Music*
Margo Brundage
David and Susan Budd
Michele Byers, *NJCF*
Carnaby Street Salon
Larry Chase
David Chiarolanio, *Alfred's*
Nancy Conger
Eunice and Sarah Conine,
The Garden Cottage
The Connection for Women and Families
Todd Conway
Cathie Coultas
Gary Curran, *Prestige Landscape*
Gary's Wine and Marketplace
Cycle Palace
Dwight Dachnowicz, *Madison Honda*
David Niu and Martha Chang,
Shanghai Jazz
Michael Dee
Scott and Ellen Drury
Deborah Farrar Starker,
Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
Grill 73
Carrie Fosbre, *Growth Catering*
Gene Fox
Dan Harding
Pam Harding
Healing Heart Massage
David Holdsworth
Hollenbach Family Chiropractic
H. Bradley Jenkins
Mara Johnson, *First Morris Bank*
Nadine LaFond, *Art Lives Studio*
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Sages Pages
Jennifer Schwartz, *Whole Foods*
Seaview Marriot Resort and Spa
Shanghai Jazz & Ruth Kerkeslager
Shannon Hill Riding Center
Sherman Hoffman Sanctuary,
New Jersey Audubon Society
SoHo33
Dan Somers
Julia Somers
Len Soucy, *Raptor Trust*
Daphne Speck-Bartynski
Frank and Dot Stillinger
Mark Strickland
Swampadelica
Susie Swayne
Table for One
Mark Taylor, *KAM*
T.M. Ward
Tre Vigne
Tim Tweed
Peter and Liz Walter
Diane Werner, *Madison YMCA*
David Womer, *Back to Nature*
Keith and Patty Wood

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Awards Grant

by Ruth Kerkeslager

I recently attended an event for the Madison YMCA during which the Dodge Foundation was honored for its longtime support of the Y. Afterwards, I noticed a number of representatives from other local non-profit organizations lining up to thank the Dodge Foundation representative for supporting their own organizations. It struck me how truly fortunate we are to have such a wonderful and generous partner in undertaking our collective efforts in New Jersey.

The Dodge Foundation has long been a friend of the Great Swamp Watershed Association and that was recently reaffirmed with their most generous grant of \$30,000 to support a range of projects and initiatives to preserve and protect the vulnerable public lands of the Great Swamp watershed, protect water quality, and educate the public.

In bestowing this grant, David Grant, the Executive Director of the Dodge Foundation, referenced Peter Forbes, in *Our Land, Ourselves*, "Conservation can offer an important cultural counterpoint to other prevailing forces in our society by giving people a connection to a story greater than themselves, one grounded in nature, history, and community." "Moreover," Mr. Grant wrote, "we believe that your efforts contribute substantially to nurturing that deeper connection."

We at the Watershed Association were very proud to receive the generous donation and the extraordinarily kind words from Mr. Grant. Partnering with the Dodge Foundation has implications for not only *what we do*, in terms of projects and initiatives to further our mission to protect the land and water, but also *how we do* our work. The Dodge Foundation encourages its partners to "imagine a future" and plan backwards from that vision, and to understand and focus on the things that matter most. We will work hard to live up to the Dodge Foundation's vision for its partners.

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

Wednesdays, *Nature's Little Explorers: Fall Session 1*. 9:45a.m.-10:30a.m.: bring your toddler (ages 2-3) and discover the wonders of nature. Morris County Park Commission.

Saturdays, *Maple Sugaring*. 2 p.m.: Join staff and volunteers for weekend maple sugaring demonstrations and learn the history and techniques of maple sugaring. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. (973) 635-6629.

January

2, *Storytelling*. 1p.m. and 3 p.m.: One of the most common forms of entertainment in the 18th century was telling stories. Listen as a sailor recounts folk tales, jokes and riddles that he learned from many cultures around the world. Wick House. (973) 539-2016 ex. 210

11, *Diggin' for Dinosaurs*. 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.: Even though dinosaurs are extinct, they are pretty interesting creatures! Join us (ages 5-6) as we become paleontologists and discover just what those types of scientists do all day. We will learn how fossils are formed, uncover some of our very own fossils, and learn some cool dinosaur characteristics. Somerset County Environmental Education Center. (908) 766-2489

15, *Discover Washington Valley Park*. 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Meet at the Newman's Lane Parking area and head out for an exploratory hike with a Naturalist. Learn to identify some local plants and trees, and keep a look out for signs of our four-footed friends' presence in the area. Somerset County Environmental Education Center. (908) 766-2489.

16, *The Staten Island Raid*. Every hour 1 p.m.-4p.m.: Eighteenth century armies usually didn't fight large scale battles during the winter because of the difficulty of moving them in bad weather. Meet one of Washington's aides on the Ford Mansion tour and discover how Washington took advantage of the worst winter of the century to attack the British on Staten Island. Ford Mansion. (973) 539-2016 ex. 210

16, *Toddler Nature Walk*, 2 p.m.: Bring your toddler for a multi sensory nature walk. Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area. (973) 334-3130

19, *Whale of a Tail*. 3:30 p.m.- 5 p.m.: Who are the largest mammals on the face of the Earth? Well, of course our friends the whales are! Join us (ages 7-9) as we learn and discover some fascinating whale characteristics. We will explore what it is like to have baleen and blubber for starters. Then we will size ourselves up to whales and finish with some origami and poems - get ready for a splashing good time! Somerset County Environmental Education Center. (908) 766-2489

22, *Tracking Hike*. 10 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.: Animals leave more than footprints behind when they travel through an area. Join a Naturalist on a winter tracking hike to learn how to 'see' where an animal has been and to try to figure out where it is going. Somerset County Environmental Education Center. (908) 766-2489

23, *Daily Life at Headquarters*. Every hour 1p.m.– 4p.m.: The Ford Mansion was both a home and a military headquarters during the winter of 1779-1780. Learn about the daily activities of Washington and his staff when you meet one of his aides on a tour of the Ford Mansion. (973) 539-2016 ex. 210

25, *Searching Our Solar System*. 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.: The solar system is such a fascinating place that revolves and rotates around the sun! Join us (ages 7-10) for an exploration of our wonderful "sun" system. We will make a pocket version of the system and one for you to bring home to put things into a better perspective. Let's just say that "My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas" will make much more sense after the class! Somerset County Environmental Education Center. (908) 766-2489.

February

6, *African Americans in the American Revolution*. Every hour 1 p.m.-4 p.m.: Meet one of Washington's aides during a Ford Mansion tour and learn about the role of African-Americans in the various armies of the Revolution. Ford Mansion. (973) 539-2016 ex. 210

13, *The Plot to Kidnap George Washington*. Every hour 1 p.m. – 4p.m.: Despite the relative safety of Morristown, the British felt they could capture Washington in a quick raid before his Army, 5 miles away in Jockey Hollow, could respond. Learn what saved Washington from this kidnapping plot as you meet one of his aides during a tour of the Ford Mansion. Ford Mansion. (973) 539-2016 ex. 210

20-21, *What was George Washington Really Like?* Every hour 1p.m.-4p.m.: People today think of Washington as a stony statue on Mount Rushmore or a stiff portrait on a dollar bill. But he was more than that. Learn about the real Washington and his likes and dislikes as you meet one of his aides during the Ford Mansion tour. Ford Mansion. (973) 539-2016 ex. 210

Scenes From the 2004 Annual Event



Enjoying the evening at the Basking Ridge Country Club are Trustee Cathie Coultas and her husband Bob of Madison, and Trustees Dot and Frank Stillinger of Chatham Township.



Out-going Trustee Nancy Conger (Long Hill), is flanked by Joan and Peter Pearlman of Short Hills.



From left: Harding Committeewoman and Trustee of the Glen Alpin Conservancy Mary Prendergast, former GSWA staffer Karen Parrish (Madison), Watershed Trustee Susan Deeks (Harding), Emile DeVito of the NJ Conservation Foundation, former Trustee Chairman Bill Aiello (Madison) and GSWA Executive Director Julia Somers.



Harding Township Mayor John Murray chats with Harding Committeeman Donald Dinsmore.



Out-going Treasurer Linda Wilson of Morris Township and in-coming Treasurer Mariellen Keefe of Basking Ridge keep an eye open for bargains!



Kathy Fox of Summit, her husband Gene (a Watershed Trustee and long-time Stream Team volunteer), alongside Kelley Curran, GSWA Stream Steward.

Watershed Association Bids Farewell to Jan Malay

Jan Malay has worked for the Watershed Association since May 2000 and has filled many different roles during her time here. She became our Land Steward administering our easements and land holdings and working with Green Acres on land acquisition. She manages insurance coverage for this organization, is our volunteer liaison, intern manager, office administrator, Board liaison, liaison to the Outreach and Education Committee, has been responsible for education programs...



As you can see, Jan has been absolutely invaluable! She is moving on to do just one thing, become a fulltime attorney at her firm, Somers & Malay in Morristown. We wish her all the luck in the world and will miss her greatly.

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Peapack Gladstone Bank

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In This Issue

David Moore Award p.1
Loantaka Assessment p.2
Swamp Watch p.6
Annual Event photos p.11

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Non-Profit Organization
Permit #2
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