



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Stony Brook – Millstone Watershed Association Announces 2005 Watershed Institute Grant Recipients**

### **11 Awards Foster Promote Environmental Stewardship Throughout New Jersey Watersheds**

Pennington, NJ (October 13, 2005) – With generous support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (the Association) has announced \$84,274 in grant awards to 11 groups throughout New Jersey. Through the Association's Watershed Institute Grants program, funding is available to help strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizations working to protect the environment in their communities.

Jim Waltman, the Association's Executive Director, states, "Helping others to protect the natural environment in their communities has been a high priority of the Association. We are pleased to see many of these projects build on accomplishments previously funded by the Institute's grant program. We are also excited to fund new organizations and projects that will serve as models for others throughout New Jersey. This is a unique experience for New Jersey watershed groups to learn from each other."

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Grants ranging from \$2,600 to \$13,610 were awarded to projects such as the creation of a stream monitoring program and the development of a bilingual stormdrain marking program. Other grants will support proactive land-use planning to protect the quality of the natural environment and enhance fundraising efforts to sustain groups' ongoing efforts. Funds will also give groups the foundation to become more self-reliant, visible advocates in their communities.

The Association formed The Watershed Institute in 2001 to strengthen local efforts to protect the environment by providing support, tailored advice and workshops for watershed associations. Funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Watershed Institute Grants Program is a small grant program dedicated to helping watershed groups carry out effective projects.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving water quality and the natural environment in the 265-square mile area of central New Jersey drained by Stony Brook and the Millstone River. The Association preserves open space by maintaining an 830-acre nature reserve in Pennington; provides year-round environmental education programs for children and adults; and works with towns, businesses, and landowners to improve land use decisions that impact our environment. For more information, call 609-737-3735 or visit us online at <http://www.thewatershed.org>.

Visit The Watershed Institute's website at <http://www.thewatershedinstitute.org> to learn more about the funded projects.

The listing of 2005 recipients (project titles and locations) follows this page.

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