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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Watershed Association Inducts 5 New Trustees & Honors Environmental Leaders *Volunteer, Educator & Steward of the Year Honored at Annual Meeting*

April 28, 2009 (Hopewell, NJ) – The **Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association**, central New Jersey’s first environmental group, held its 2009 Annual Meeting on Monday April 27, inducting five new trustees and honoring volunteers, community members and environmental leaders as the organization continues to celebrate its 60th anniversary.

“This is a big year for the Watershed Association,” said **Executive Director Jim Waltman**, as he recognized early Watershed Association leaders, including Malcolm Crooks, executive director from 1995-1963, and Jim Gaffney, executive director from 1980-1985, and touted the organization’s successes – both past and present.

“For six decades, the Watershed Association has worked to protect your water and your environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education,” he continued. “From halting sewage discharge in the D&R Canal and other waterways and stopping major highways, to preserving open space and restoring stream banks, the Watershed Association continues to inspire generations of residents to love and care for our water and environment.”

New trustees **Walter Bliss** of Princeton Township, **Bill Carmean** of Yardley, Pa., **Jonathan L. Erickson** of Princeton Township, **Marylou Millard Ferrara** of Hopewell Township, and **Scot D. Pannepacker** of Hopewell Borough were inducted by unanimous vote of the Watershed Association’s membership and bring a wide range of new skills to the Watershed Association’s board. (*See full bios at end of release*)

The Watershed Association also honored several award winners.

Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and watershed resident, is the recipient of the Watershed Association’s highest award – the **Edmund W. Stiles Award for Environmental Stewardship**. This award is named in memory of the late Edmund W. (Ted) Stiles, a professor of ecology at Rutgers University and a Watershed Association Trustee and Advisory Board member who played a leadership role in our land protection, science and advocacy efforts while dedicating his life to countless other conservation organizations and protecting lands in New Jersey.

“An environmental champion for New Jersey and now the nation as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ms. Jackson fully embodies the tenets of the Edmund W. Stiles Award,” said Mr. Waltman. “As EPA Administrator, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and protecting America’s water are among her top priorities.”

Accepting the award on Ms. Jackson's behalf, Ron Borsellino, Acting Director, Division of Planning and Protection, thanked the Watershed Association for the honor and applauded the group's hard work and determination.

"The fact that you have survived and thrived for 60 years as a cohesive organization is proof positive that you have focused a very bright light on the sensitive needs of an important New Jersey watershed," said Mr. Borsellino. "Good watershed stewardship has its roots right here – at the community level. It's the grassroots organizations like yours that play a valuable role in helping us achieve our mission."

Jamie Witsen, environmental science teacher at Montgomery Township Upper Middle School, is the 2009 recipient of the Watershed Association's **Richard Rotter Award for Excellence in Environmental Education**. This award is named in honor of the late Richard Rotter, an exceptional high school teacher in Montgomery who was a committed environmentalist in his own community. Each year the award is given to an area teacher who demonstrates a high level of enthusiasm and commitment to environmental education.

Ms. Witsen, embraces a "think global, act local" approach using her environmental work abroad to inspire her students to take action locally and tackle projects large and small – everything from improving recycling in Montgomery schools to creating interpretative kiosks for the Sourland Mountains that underscore the plight of migratory birds.

"From taking students to Mexico to see the Monarch butterfly migration first-hand, to partnering with the Watershed Association to get students out in the field at Montgomery Park to help us complete one of our most ambitious wetland restoration projects, Jamie aims through her lessons and actions to instill a love of nature in all her students," said Jeff Hoagland, Watershed Association Education Director.

Anna Drago, of Cranbury, is the recipient of the Watershed Association's top volunteer honor. The Watershed Association **Volunteer Service Award** recognizes volunteers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in commitment, time, energy and service to the organization. Ms. Drago, a tireless environmental advocate for her hometown and the watershed at large, more than meets these qualifications.

A regular supporter of the Watershed Association since 1989, Ms. Drago is the quintessential Watershed Association volunteer - doing it all, heart and soul. After retiring from the Romance Languages Department at Princeton University she began looking for ways to spend her newfound free time and found her place at the Watershed Association.

"From monitoring the health of our region's water as a StreamWatch volunteer for more than a decade and becoming a River-Friendly resident, to setting up, taking down, and cleaning up countless events, Anna is dedicated to helping our environment and the organization," said Mr. Waltman.

Ms. Drago has served two three-year terms on the Watershed Association Board of Trustees and co-chaired the Watershed Association's largest fundraising event of the year - the Watershed FEST - multiple times. She continues to serve on the Watershed Association's Advisory Board and FEST Steering Committee.

The five new members of the Watershed Association's Board of Trustees are:

Walter Bliss, of Princeton Township, has practiced law in the Mercer County area for more than 25 years, representing municipalities, planning boards and citizens' groups concerned about land use. He is now serving his third term on the Princeton Regional Board of Education and has been active as a volunteer in organizing youth recreation programs in Princeton. His government experience includes service as an Assistant United States Attorney, Assistant Counsel to Governor Brendan Byrne, and Deputy Commissioner of Insurance.

Bill Carmean and his wife, Nancy Ross, moved to Pennington in 1989 and have been supporters of the Watershed Association ever since. The family's four children have all attended Watershed Association programs and camp, and today Mr. Carmean and Ms. Ross are co-chairing the 2009 Watershed FEST. Professionally, Mr. Carmean was a securities and corporate lawyer for 25 years and is a graduate of Yale College and New York University Law School. He and his family now live in Yardley, Pa.

Jonathan L. Erickson, of Princeton Township, is Managing Director and Portfolio Strategist for Princeton University Investment Company. Prior to joining PRINCO, Mr. Erickson spent almost 10 years at International Private Equity Group. He received a bachelor's of science degree in economics summa cum laude from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and has earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. He also serves on the Investment Committee of the NJ Performing Arts Center.

Marylou Millard Ferrara, of Hopewell Township, is a former Mayor and Township Committee member for Hopewell Township. During her tenure, the township adopted a new Master Plan, which was based on natural resource and infrastructure capacity. As Mayor and a member of the Planning Board, she partnered with the Watershed Association on the Watershed Association's first Municipal Assessment. Ms. Ferrara is a graduate of Rutgers University School of Law where she was a Marshall-Brennan Fellow.

Scot D. Pannepacker, of Hopewell Borough, is a partner at Lear & Pannepacker, LLP Certified Public Accountants. With a bachelor of business administration in accounting from Temple University, summa cum laude, he is active in a number of community organizations including Isles Inc., Port of Trenton Museum Foundation, and Preservation New Jersey.

About the Watershed Association

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, a not-for-profit organization, protects the 265-square-mile region drained by the Stony Brook and Millstone River – an area spanning 26 towns and five counties. Founded in 1949, the Watershed Association is central New Jersey's first environmental group protecting clean water and the environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education.

Interviews with Executive Director Jim Waltman, Jamie Witsen and Anna Drago are available upon request. Contact Gwen McNamara, Communications Manager, at (609) 737-3735 x16 or gmcnamara@thewatershed.org.