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NEWS RELEASE

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Watershed Association Celebrates Environmental Achievement *Honors "Green" Leaders & Welcomes New Trustees at Annual Meeting*

April 8, 2011 (Hopewell, NJ) – The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, central New Jersey's first environmental group, will celebrate environmental achievement and welcome three outstanding community leaders to its Board of Trustees at its 62nd Annual Meeting on Monday, April 25.

Watershed Association members and friends are invited to join Watershed Association staff, Board of Trustees and Advisory Board members for refreshments at 5:30 p.m. at the Buttinger Nature Center on the Watershed Reserve (31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington NJ). The Annual Meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and be followed at 7:30 p.m. by a special hike with Education Director Jeff Hoagland.

"This year we have a lot to celebrate," said Jim Waltman, Watershed Association Executive Director. "From our own environmental achievements at the state and local levels, to those of our special award-winners and new board members, I am excited to share our successes and plans for the future with our members, family and friends at the Annual Meeting."

Environmental Awards

Richard Rotter Award for Excellence in Environmental Education

Liz Cutler, of Princeton Township, is the 2011 recipient of the 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 whom demonstrates a high level of enthusiasm and commitment to environmental education.

Ms. Cutler, a faculty member at Princeton Day School (PDS) for more than 20 years, is a dynamic teacher and tireless advocate for sustainability efforts both at school and beyond. She brought environmental education in to the PDS curriculum and fosters student involvement in environmental issues as the faculty advisor to the EnAct Club (Environmental Action). She also hosted an eco-conference for area schools this spring and started a new PDS tradition of an annual Harvest Dinner featuring food grown, prepared and served entirely by PDS students.

"As PDS's Sustainability Coordinator, Ms. Cutler has influenced faculty, students and parents through a wide array of sustainable actions and initiatives, including helping the school become River-Friendly Certified through the Watershed Association's own River-Friendly Certification Program," said Jeff Hoagland, Watershed Association Education Director. "Her energy and enthusiasm for the environment is unmatched."

Special Environmental Recognition Awards

The Watershed Association is also recognizing two groups for their contributions to our local environment.

Millstone Township is being honored for demonstrating excellence in environmental leadership with the adoption of two progressive local ordinances and the town's aggressive open space preservation program. Their efforts will protect the health of the township's unique environment for the benefit of many generations to come. Home to the beginnings of five major rivers – including the Millstone River – Millstone Township has the unique opportunity to protect water quality for hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents.

In 2010, the township adopted two important ordinances for the environment. In May, Millstone Township officials unanimously adopted one of New Jersey's only threatened and endangered species ordinances. "State regulations are limited in scope for protecting threatened and endangered species, only offering protection for certain species and types of habitat," said Jennifer Coffey, Watershed Association Policy Director. "Millstone Township has taken definitive action to ensure that habitat for all threatened and endangered species is protected."

In addition, Millstone Township officials again voted unanimously in October to adopt one of the strongest woodlands protection ordinances in the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed. Woodlands protection is important because trees help filter pollutants and keep streams clean, provide habitat for wildlife, and support the rural character of Millstone Township.

Hightstown Borough Parks & Recreation Commission, Hightstown Triathlon and Jersey Area Multisport are being honored for building community awareness in Hightstown about the region's water resources and connecting residents with its central waterway, Peddie Lake. In 2010, the Hightstown Borough Parks & Recreation Commission teamed up with the Watershed Association to regularly test the quality of Peddie Lake in Hightstown in advance of the town's weekly summer Friday Night Swims, organized by Jersey Area Multisport. For both the weekly swims and annual Hightstown Triathlon in the fall, the testing of Peddie Lake ensured that the waterway was safe for swimming and clearly illustrated the importance of making the community aware of just how large an impact our everyday actions have on our water.

"In two instances the Friday Night Swims did have to be cancelled following heavy rains, as our joint testing showed bacteria levels to be too high for swimming," said Amy Soli, Ph.D., Watershed Association Science Director. "The pollution was likely the result of rain water picking-up "people pollution" – pet and animal waste and waste from compromised septic sewers – and washing this pollution into Peddie Lake." By educating swimmers and triathlon participants about these issues, the group has made a significant impact on efforts to protect clean water and the environment in Hightstown.

New Trustees

Daniel J. Dart, Princeton Township

Mr. Dart spent the majority of his career as a senior business leader in the investment management industry. Now retired, he most recently served as Chief Operating Officer of Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, Non-Proprietary Group. Previously he was Executive Vice President and Head of U.S. Sales at Pioneer Investments in Boston, and Senior Vice President and National Sales Manager at Alliance/Bernstein in New York. He began his career at State Street Bank & Trust Company in Boston and later founded Blackstone Bank & Trust Company in Boston where he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer. Since retiring from Merrill Lynch, Mr. Dart is now focused on environmental issues that impact neurological development in children and chronic disease in adults. He enjoys long distance running, golf and investing, and is a member of Hopewell Investors group. Mr. Dart resides in Princeton Township his wife Tracy and daughters Ashley and Sophie.

Sophie Glovier, Princeton Township

After serving on the board of D&R Greenway Land Trust for eight years, Ms. Glovier joined the staff as Director of Philanthropic Support, helping to successfully preserve the 340-acre St. Michael's Property in Hopewell. She left D&R Greenway in 2008 and working with photographer Bentley Drezner created "Walk the Trails In and Around Princeton," an innovative book highlighting local trails in the Princeton region – two Watershed Reserve trails included. She has also developed an interest in the sustainability movement and is working to shape how our schools educate children to be responsible lifelong environmental stewards. She is the founding parent leader of Princeton Day School's PDSSEEDS (Supporting Environmental Education and Discovery for Sustainability) initiative. She also recently received a leadership award from Sustainable Princeton for her work in the community. A member of the Garden Club of Princeton, she graduated from Princeton University and started her career in advertising. She later earned a master's degree from Columbia Business School and joined Y&R Inc., one of the world's largest media conglomerates. She lives in Princeton Township with her husband and three children.

Gregory Vafis, Hopewell Borough

Mr. Vafis is the Executive Director for National Assessment of Educational Progress at Educational Testing Service in Lawrence Township. Previously, he served as Executive Director for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and Executive Director of R&D for College Board Programs at ETS and has taught political science at the university level, and middle school science and writing. An active member of the Watershed Association's Education Committee for the past two years, he is an enthusiastic supporter of the organization's activities and mission. A native of northern California, Mr. Vafis now calls Hopewell Borough home where he resides with his wife Lisa and sons Ben and Joe.

The Watershed Association will also acknowledge and thank outgoing Board Member John Ellis, of Pennington, for his hard work and dedication. He served six years on the board, one term as board chair and four as vice chair. He also chaired the board's Nominating Committee and served on the board's Campus Planning Committee.

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About the Watershed Association

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is central New Jersey's first environmental group. Since 1949 we have been protecting clean water and the environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education. www.thewatershed.org.