



Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Keep Your Town Green & Your Water Clean.

Watershed Association launches first Fall Stream Cleanups

(August 30, 2010) – Building on the success of its annual spring Stream Cleanups, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association – central New Jersey’s first environmental group – is teaming up with two towns to hold a second round of cleanups this fall. On September 25, volunteers in Princeton and South Brunswick will be rolling up their sleeves to help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean and healthy.

“The choices we make every day have the biggest impact on the health of our water and environment,” said **Jim Waltman**, executive director of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. “From the chemicals we use to treat our lawn, to the cup from the coffee shop that we toss aside – each year thousands of pounds of trash and pollutants are washed from our streets and yards into our lakes, rivers and streams.”

This “people” pollution is having a negative impact on the health of aquatic life in our local waterways and the quality of water throughout Central Jersey, according to the Watershed Association’s recently released State of the Watershed Report. Combining water quality, environmental policy and land use analysis, the report details the condition of our water today and how we all need to take steps to make a difference.

“Central Jersey’s water is in trouble,” said Mr. Waltman. “The Stream Cleanups are just one way we can all chip in to help keep our water clean and healthy.”

This spring, a total of 287 volunteers across 10 towns helped haul 461 bags of trash and debris from area waterways weighing a combined 8,437 pounds – including a rusting car, decaying refrigerators and countless plastic bottles, plastic bags and aluminum cans. Spring cleanups in Princeton and South Brunswick were postponed due to weather. On September 25, the cleanups in Princeton and South Brunswick will be held rain or shine.

The Princetons

Saturday September 25, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, the Joint Princeton Environmental Commission and volunteers will meet at Grover’s Park behind the Princeton Shopping Center on Harrison Street in Princeton Township. In 2009, nine volunteers picked up 300 pounds of trash and debris from the canal area.

South Brunswick Township

Saturday September 25, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, South Brunswick Township Environmental

Commission, municipal leaders and volunteers will meet behind Ashley's Furniture's Route 1 store to clean up the stream area. Parking is available in the grassy area between Ashley Furniture's Shipping/Receiving driveway and the trees. To get there, use Black Horse Lane. South Brunswick is a first-time Stream Clean-up participant.

To volunteer, contact Watershed Association Community Advocacy Coordinator Leslie Brecknell at (609) 737-3735 x30 or lbrecknell@thewatershed.org. Volunteers should wear boots and long sleeves, and bring a water bottle and work gloves if they have them. T-shirts provided as well as in-kind refreshments from Whole Foods Market. To learn more visit: www.thewatershed.org.

Special thanks to our 2010 Stream Clean-up Sponsors: American Rivers, Aztec Graphics, Home Depot, McCaffrey's Supermarket, NJ Clean Communities, Saul Ewing LLP, Wawa, Wegmans and Whole Foods Market.

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 available upon request. Contact Gwen McNamara, Communications Manager, at (609) 737-3735 x16 or gmcnamara@thewatershed.org.