

A publication of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, central New Jersey's first environmental group.

WELLSPRING

Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

Reading, Writing & Environmental Education

Throughout New Jersey and across our watershed, public schools have been navigating troubled waters after losing \$820 million in state aid. Concerned by property tax increases proposed to offset these cuts, voters in 57 percent of New Jersey's school districts rejected school budgets last

spring, forcing township committees and counties to step in and negotiate those budgets.

The Watershed Association started teaching public school children about the environment and their role in protecting it in the 1950s and we have ratcheted up this work over the past two decades. During the last school year, we delivered 124 programs in 14 different public school districts. Our challenge is to continue our partnership with these school districts while helping them fill the gap left by tight budgets.

Today environmental education is more important than ever. With more children able to identify cartoon characters than local plants and animals, connecting our children with nature is a top priority.

"We have a tendency to separate ourselves from the natural order of things when in fact we are a part of these systems and cycles," said Jeff Hoagland, Education Director. "The critical role of environmental education is to fortify the connections between students and their environment through knowledge and experience. This basic understanding

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The Watershed Association's partnership with the Hopewell Valley Central School District's Timberlane Middle School is just one example of how we help fill the budget gap.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank You

The Watershed Association lost three long-time friends recently. Alexander “Whip” Buck, Doreen Spitzer, and Charles “Charlie” Townsend (see memorial on page 4) were each strong leaders with a passion for life and a deep commitment to

the environment. All three were extremely generous supporters of our work.

Extending condolences on behalf of the Watershed Association to the family and friends of departed loved ones provides bittersweet moments. A broad smile will come across the face of a child or spouse of the departed, even as their eyelashes are still moist from tears. “Boy did she love the Watershed,” is the refrain, or “The Watershed meant so much to him.” These conversations are always very humbling. Knowing the personal commitment of so many Watershed Association members, living and gone, propels me forward with even greater urgency to advance our mission to protect and restore the waterways and water supply, forests and fields of central New Jersey.

For more than 60 years, the Watershed Association has persevered through periods of strong economic growth and deep recession. The reality is that we would not exist today without the generosity of people like these three and many others, some of whom we remember in the names of our buildings, facilities, awards and internships.

Twenty-five years ago, the Watershed Association lost our greatest benefactor, Muriel Gardiner Buttinger. A charter member of the organization, Mrs. Buttinger donated more than 500 acres to the Watershed Association and the buildings that serve as our offices and Nature Center and support the organic farm on the Watershed Reserve.

In addition to her philanthropy and career as an eminent psychiatrist, Mrs. Buttinger will forever be known as one of the great heroes of

the Nazi Resistance, risking her own life to help Jews and other persecuted peoples escape Eastern Europe in the late 1930s. Author Sheila Isenberg tells her story in the new book “Muriel’s War” (Palgrave MacMillan).

We are forever indebted to the many people who have made, and continue to make, our efforts possible.

★ Green Stars

In the last issue of the *Wellspring*, I wrote about the march of sprawl and what some towns are doing about it. I am very pleased to call attention to two new ordinances that will help protect our local environment. This fall, with assistance from the Watershed Association, **Millstone Township** passed a strong new **Woodlands Protection Ordinance** and **Princeton Township** passed a bold new **Stormwater Management Ordinance**. Three cheers for these latest actions!



Meet the Millstone

Special thanks to Eno Terra restaurant in Kingston, NJ for helping raise funds and awareness about protecting our water and environment! Located at the heart of our watershed, Eno Terra restaurant takes an “Eat Local. Drink Global” approach to its menu and mission. On Sept. 19, more than 300 people came out to enjoy great food, family activities and more along the Millstone River at our first “Meet the Millstone: Farm to Table with Eno Terra.”



STREAMWATCHING

Focus on Algae

When it comes to our lakes and streams, being green is not always a good thing. Science intern Sidharth Medakkar learned this firsthand when he discovered an extensive blue-green algae bloom in West Windsor this summer.



Sidharth, a high school student from Clarksburg, NJ came to the Watershed Association with a strong interest for algae and spent the summer collecting algal samples from streams and identifying the species present. After reviewing StreamWatch monitoring data on algal levels present in local streams, Sidharth visited eight sites to collect samples. He found a type of green algae known as *Spirogyra* as the dominant species present at all of the sites. *Spirogyra* is commonly found in lakes and streams in central NJ and is not a problem under normal growth conditions.

However, at Big Bear Brook in West Windsor he encountered large quantities of algae of a different kind (see photo). Lab analysis indicated the algae are a species of blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) caused by elevated levels of nutrients (nitrates and phosphates). While the source of the excess nutrients is unknown, possible causes include fertilizer runoff, leaking septic systems, leaking sewer pipes and animal waste. Extensive algal blooms prevent light from filtering to the bottom of streams, thus inhibiting the growth of other aquatic plants. In addition, when algae die, it consumes oxygen and depletes the amount available for fish, insects and other aquatic life.



Science volunteer Sidharth Medakkar identified a cyanobacteria bloom on Big Bear Brook in West Windsor.

Sidharth is continuing to research the cyanobacteria species found and also the land use in West Windsor to help pinpoint the source of the excess nutrients. Meanwhile, we can all do our part to keep nutrients in check by cleaning up after our pets, regularly maintaining our septic systems and testing our soil to find out if we really need to fertilize our lawn or garden. If a soil test indicates fertilizing is necessary, only use phosphate-free and slow-release nitrogen fertilizer.

Join Us for Water Music

The NJ Symphony Orchestra is celebrating water with its 2011 Winter Festival. Join us Friday, January 14 at the War Memorial in Trenton for “Best of Water” – a lively performance featuring Handel’s festive “Water Music”, Smetana’s “The Molau”, Strauss’ lilting “Blue Danube Waltz”, and Mendelssohn’s “Final’s Cave.” Executive Director Jim Waltman and Education Director Jeff Hoagland will take part. PLUS, as a NJSO Winter Festival partner, all Watershed Association members can take 20 percent off all Winter Festival concerts when using the exclusive promotion code STONYBROOK. Visit njsymphony.org for show information or call the Box Office at 1-800-ALLEGRO (255-3476) to order tickets today.



A PARTNER IN CONSERVATION

Charlie to All

by Jamie Sapoch, former Executive Director

“You can always tell a great leader when you look behind that person and see a crowd following. That was Charlie. He was an inspiration...He was everything you wanted a leader to be: knowledgeable, expert, honest, ethical, fair, wise, and the epitome of good judgment.”

These words were written by William Carey of the W.P. Carey & Co. upon learning of Charlie Townsend's passing at the end of August, after a long illness. Charlie's career on Wall Street was legendary. He was a Partner and Managing Director in investment banking at Morgan Stanley, remaining as an Advisory Director upon retirement in 1979. Chairman John Mack cited Charlie as being one of the “instrumental figures” in Morgan's 75-year history. At W.P. Carey & Co., he was a trusted advisor and Lead Director, offering counsel until as recently as a few days before he died.

As I think about him now, as I have done a great deal these last few weeks, I first hear the laugh. Then I see the smile. He was genuine and charming. I first met Charlie as a Watershed neighbor during the years when I was the director of the Watershed Association now almost 20 years ago. His farm backed onto the Reserve off Moores Mill-Mt. Rose Road and was forever connected by a 50-acre conservation easement he had donated to the Watershed Association in the 1980s. I remember being fascinated by “the story”. Successful Wall Street banker turned cattle



Watershed Association friend Charlie Townsend

farmer. More at home on a tractor than in a business suit. He loved to farm and he loved to fish. While he definitely had his own opinions he encouraged you to make your own decisions and to do what you thought was right. He always had time to talk. The infamous “book” always had an opening for you somewhere, once it was properly consulted. He knew everything and everyone. And we all listened. A farming E.F. Hutton, in faded blue jeans, driving an old station wagon to Rose and Chubby's for lunch. Graduate of Princeton, with a Harvard MBA, he gave his time and talent to many. For years, he was a trustee of Stockton State and he loved Grafton, Vermont and his colleagues at the Windham Foundation. His impact closer to home helped influence a decade's worth of grant making through the Bunbury Company, a new hospital for Princeton Healthcare Systems, and his commitment to the growth of the hospital's chaplaincy was absolute. To the Watershed Association, he was a stalwart advocate. He believed in fiscal responsibility and provided early leadership in establishing the Watershed Endowment. He was generous in spirit and, with his loving wife Daphne, was a caring friend to many. Charlie to all, he will be sorely missed.

Fall Stream Cleanup

More than 40 volunteers came out to remove trash, debris and other “people pollution” in South Brunswick and Princeton on Sept. 25 as part of the Watershed Association's first Fall Stream Cleanups. Altogether 556 pounds of trash was collected, including cans, bottles, a bicycle, baseballs, chair cushions, a bed frame and mattress. This extra cleanup puts our 2010 Stream Cleanup total over 4 tons!

Mark your calendar for our 2011 Stream Cleanups: April 2&3 and 9&10.



Chloe Madison, Jade Rowland, Sahchi Bedi and Anna Henkel of Girl Scout Troop 70216 use their girl power for good in Princeton. No trash left behind!



First-time volunteers Will and Jesse Schafer team up in South Brunswick for an impressive trash haul.

Grants Foster Environmental Stewardship Statewide



Congratulations to the 2010 grantees!

- Crafts Creek/Spring Hill Brook Watershed Association
- Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
- Great Swamp Watershed Association
- Pequannock River Coalition
- Pinelands Preservation Alliance
- Rancocas Conservancy
- South Jersey Land & Water Trust
- Upper Raritan Watershed Association

Approximately 50 boats took to the water at the opening of Pequannock River Coalition's Three Rivers Water Trail. The creation of the trail was funded by a previous Institute grant.

The Watershed Association is pleased to announce the grantees of the 2010 Watershed Institute Grant Program. Initiated in 2003, the Grant Program aims to help small, citizen-based watershed groups become independent and self-sustaining organizations with robust programs that protect and restore New Jersey's natural resources. Now in its eighth year, the Grant Program provided \$85,534 in funds for projects such as invasive plant monitoring and removal, scientific studies, and more.

Funding for the 2010 grant cycle was provided by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the William Penn Foundation. The Institute is grateful to our funders and Grant Review Committee members for their continued support and guidance.

Visit www.TheWatershedInstitute.org for detailed information on these, and previous, projects funded through the Grant Program, and for a listing of watershed groups throughout the state.

Water Works at the FEST

More than 250 Watershed Association friends came out to the 35th Annual Watershed FEST on Oct. 2. The event netted \$80,000 for our conservation, advocacy, science and education efforts.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support our organization!



From left, back row: Annie and Andrew Bolton, of Princeton; Bernie Waddleton, of Somerset; Clare Hutchinson, of Haddonfield; and Jessica Penetar, of Kingston. Front row, from left: Sarah Lincoln, of Conshohoken, Pa.; Alicia Kozikowski, of Princeton; and Barbara Wentzel, of Hainesport.



FEST Chairs Marylou Ferrara and Bill Carmean, both Watershed Association Trustees, get to work at the 35th Annual Watershed FEST. (Not pictured, FEST Chair Nancy Ross.)



From left, Watershed Association Executive Director Jim Waltman and his wife Alicia, with John Castellini and Lorraine Sciarra, chair of the Watershed Association Board of Trustees.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Pam Mount, Lawrence Township



Farmer, conservationist, mayor, councilwoman—longtime Watershed Association member Pam Mount wears a lot of hats. But perhaps the one that fits best is environmental leader.

Owner of Terhune Orchards in Lawrence Township with husband Gary (former Watershed Association trustee 1980–1986), Ms. Mount was recently recognized for her environmental leadership with a “Great Women in the Garden State Award” from the New Jersey Society for Women Environmental Professionals.

The Mounts have grown Terhune Orchards into a multi-faceted farm. From apples and produce, to a new vineyard and pick-your-own fun, Terhune Orchards is shining example of community engagement and environmental stewardship.

“After college, Gary and I spent three years in the Peace Corps on a little island in the middle of the Pacific,” said Ms. Mount. “Everyone who lived there was absolutely in sync with their environment. They watched the ocean, the stars, the sky and knew when everything grew and it’s use, how it interrelated. ... We learned a lot from that experience.”

Inspired by these lessons, the Mounts have dedicated their time and effort in New Jersey to promoting farming, responsible land management and conservation, and more. In her 11 years as an elected official in Lawrence Township, Ms. Mount has championed land preservation and park development. She’s a firm believer in the power of grassroots activism and helped launch a number of organizations like the Lawrence Hopewell Trail and Sustainable Lawrence to engage the community in using local resources and living sustainably.

“People today are starting to understand that we have limited resources—water, land, clean air—and that they can easily be taken for granted,” she said.

“It takes commitment from everyone working together to make a difference – to use water efficient appliances, turn off the lights, recycle, engage the neighborhood,” she continued. “The Watershed Association does a good job of getting lots of people involved in these important actions.”

Environmental Education

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of our environment is even more important during challenging times.”

By working closely with schools, and directly addressing school curriculum, we continue to deliver a diversity of learning opportunities to students. The core of our programming remains popular with many schools—Exploring a Pond, The Insect Safari and Discover Spring—but customizing our lessons is key to addressing the needs of the schools.

A two-week program we’ve conducted the last several years for Hopewell’s Timberlane Middle School is a great example of this creativity. Four years ago, the Hopewell Valley Regional School District concluded that they could no longer afford what had become a cherished ritual: an overnight trip to the Poconos for the school’s more than 300 sixth graders in order to integrate students from Hopewell’s four elementary schools. The Watershed Association stepped in to fill the void at reduced cost to the school and to parents.

This past fall, the Timberlane program explored stream life, measured water chemistry, wrote haiku, built shelters, participated in team building, created environmental art and learned about tree ecology in the forests and meadows of the Watershed Reserve in Hopewell and along the Stony Brook in Kunkel Park in Pennington. Each student received two full days of instruction. We hope to replicate this program for other schools that have had to eliminate expensive field trips to more distant locations.

To help provide children additional opportunities for environmental instruction, we’ve also launched an after school Nature and Ecology Enrichment series in the Hopewell school district. Beginning in Hopewell Elementary School and Tollgate Grammar School and using the school grounds as our classroom, these programs offer hands-on lessons in familiar territory near the students’ homes.

Traveling to Riverside Elementary School in Princeton, we explored the adaptations, life cycle and migration of the Monarch butterfly with second graders. Students played the role of budding scientist, tagging and releasing Monarch Butterflies from the Kate Gorrie Butterfly House

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SPEAKING OF NATURE

Winter Wonderland

by Jeff Hoagland

Winter, in these parts, just isn't complete without some snow and ice. I'm not talking about a touch of snow or just a bit of ice. I am talking about something that is measurable, something that lingers, something that completely redefines the landscape and brings smiles to the faces of kids. Something like last winter, perhaps?

My fascination with snow and ice is not just nostalgic. Sure, who doesn't like building a snow fort stocked with ripe, round snowballs or a front yard, carrot-nosed, coal-eyed snowman? What child can resist sledding, sliding, slipping down a snowy, icy slope on a Flexible Flyer or a saucer? How about a skate on the local pond, frozen thick enough for a game of hockey or a spell of crack-the-whip? There is, however, a more elemental joy to snow and ice.

A decent snowfall redefines the landscape. It covers the ground like a heavy blanket, eliminating the distractions of the ground cover and illuminating the contours of the land and the sculpting hand of the wind. It adorns the branches of trees and inhabits the architecture of the winter weeds. The snow becomes a journal capturing the stories of all the local creatures told through their shadowy footprints and, well, whatever else they leave behind.

Go ahead; walk through the snow as if it is your first time. Notice the way it slows you down as it grabs at your feet. If it's a cold, light as dust snow—give it a kick and watch it fly. Listen as you walk. Can you hear the sound of tiny little ice crystals tinkling together? Can you make the snow squeak underneath your boots?

No snow, you say? Embrace the joy of ice. Overnight the hoarfrost dresses the leaves of the weeds and grasses with jackets of tiny crystalline spikes. Listen to the amplified crunch underfoot as you walk down a frost-heaved trail. Examine a frozen puddle with its artistic concentric patterns of curves. Isn't it favorable over an unfrozen, freezing cold puddle any day? Besides, if big enough or long enough, you can go puddle sliding.

If it is cold enough, long enough, head off to the pond to admire the ice. When I grew up it was hard to find a frozen



The Stony Brook in Pennington.

pond in winter that wasn't inhabited by ice skaters tracing patterns onto the glassy surface. I would skate around searching for clear ice—a window into the dark pond below. I once found a big old bullfrog sprawled lifeless on the bottom of the pond. As I stared in amazement pondering whether it was really alive, it gave one slow kick and sailed out of view.

I think what fascinates me most about the snow and ice in winter is that they offer a glimpse of the water cycle in slow motion. At the height of winter, when everything is frozen, it seems that much of the water cycle is suspended. Sure, some water still moves around—you can watch the clouds sail by in their sea of blue, or watch the snow falling. But percolation and runoff simply have to wait for a warmer day. The trees stand dormant, waiting to access water and there is no transpiration. The water cycle even sounds different in winter—listen to the gentle thud of falling snow or the percussion of sleet. How about the eerie groan of the frozen pond?

*everyone talks at once
snow falling
on pin oak leaves*

Jeff Hoagland in *Mayfly*

Whether you are admiring or cursing the frozen landscape this winter, you have to admit that there is a certain beauty to it. Hopefully the deep freeze of winter will serve as a reminder that we all have a responsibility to be good caretakers of our water resources. While you may want to wish the snow or ice away, there really is no *away* in the water cycle.



DEALING WITH SNOW AND ICE

- Shovel first—always clear as much snow and ice by hand and only clear areas needed.
- Always follow labeled directions—whether you're anti-icing (to prevent ice from forming) or de-icing (melting ice afterward).
- Use minimal salt—salt products can damage plants, corrode metals, and pollute our waterways.
- Consider "environmentally friendly" alternatives to salt.

PROVIDING WILDLIFE FOOD/WATER

- Plant a variety of native trees, shrubs, and other plants that have nuts, berries, or nectar food sources.
- Provide water year round in dishes or birdbaths. Make sure to keep the water clean (change it frequently) and unfrozen during the winter.
- Keep your hanging feeders full to offer a food supplement.

PROVIDING WILDLIFE SHELTER

- Provide native plants, which are beneficial to native wildlife.
- Provide a variety of native trees shrubs and other plants in your landscape.
- Leave brush piles or fallen logs where possible.
 - Set up bird houses, duck houses, bat houses, toad houses or even butterfly hibernation boxes to provide shelter.

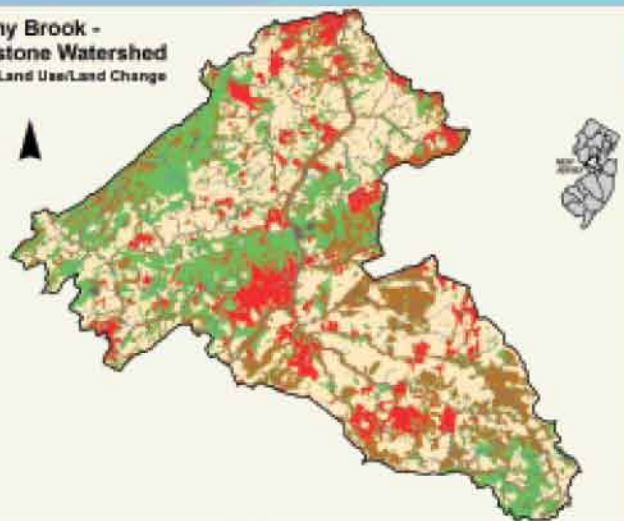
Water Matters

In this conclusion of our four-part Water Matters series we will learn some River-Friendly ways to help wildlife and promote habitats. Over the year, we have explored concepts such as: connections between water quality, environmental policy, and land use (spring issue), tips on conserving water both indoors and outside (summer issue), and runoff and ways to reduce water pollution (fall issue). The Water Matters Series demonstrates how our everyday actions have a big impact on the environment. Many of these issues are highlighted in our "State of the Watershed Report" (available for download at thewatershed.org).

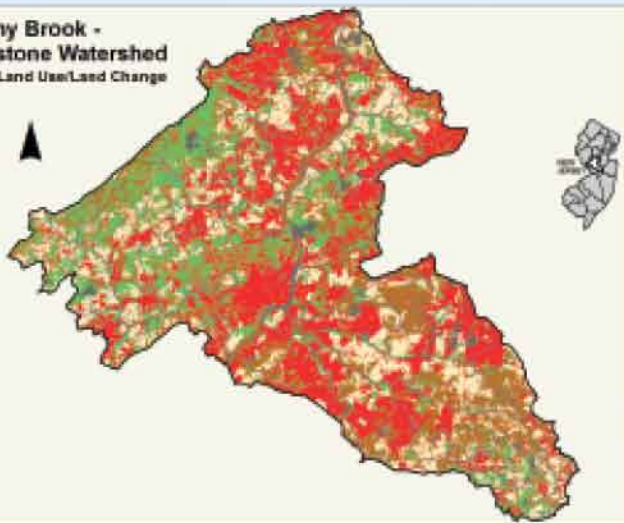
LOSSES IN HABITAT

Wildlife need food, water, shelter, and opportunities to reproduce in order to survive. Unfortunately, wildlife habitat in the region has declined significantly in recent years. According to NJDEP Land Use/Land Cover data, more than 21,000 acres of land were developed in the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed between 1986 and 2002, a rate of approximately 110 acres—or more than 100 football fields per month (NJDEP, 2003).

Stony Brook -
Millstone Watershed
1972 Land Use/Land Change



Stony Brook -
Millstone Watershed
2002 Land Use/Land Change



MAP LEGEND

- Urban
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Wetlands

Take Action!

Everyone can play a part in protecting our water and keeping our watershed healthy.

What you can do at home: Be a River-Friendly Resident!

You don't have to live on a river to be River-Friendly. Please complete our River-Friendly Survey, which is a pledge that you do your part to help. Go online at www.thewatershed.org or contact Amy Weaver at aweaver@thewatershed.org and become a River-Friendly Resident today.

What you can do in your community: Be a local advocate!

Attend local environmental commission, planning board, and town council or committee meetings to encourage them to adopt stronger ordinances that protect clean water and healthy habitats. Contact Community Advocacy Coordinator Leslie Brecknell at lbrecknell@thewatershed.org to learn more.

Events Calendar—Winter 2011

Family & Adult Programs

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Children's Programs

PAGE 12-14

FEE CODE:

M = Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed
Association current member

NM = Non-member

Registration is required for all programs, unless stated otherwise.

Space is limited. All programs meet at the Buttinger Nature Center, unless stated otherwise. Please call (609) 737-7592 to register. Payment is accepted by cash, check, VISA, MasterCard or Discover and can be dropped off at the Nature Center or mailed to:
Education Programs, 31 Titus Mill Road,
Pennington, NJ 08534.

Refund Policy

A full refund will be made if notice of cancellation is received at least 48 hours before a program. Call (609) 737-7592 to cancel. No refunds or credits will be given after that time. Watershed Association membership is not refundable.

Family & Adult Programs

JANUARY 14

In Search of Owls—Presentation and Night Hike

Friday, 7–8:30 PM, Families (children 6 years and up) and Adults, \$10 M/\$15 NM

Join us as we explore a winter night in search for our favorite nocturnal raptors, owls! Our owl prowling will be preceded by a presentation introducing all to owls, their calls and adaptations. After the hike, we will return to the Nature Center to warm up with some hot beverages.

JANUARY 20

Sugar Maple Tapping!

Thursday, 12–1 PM, Families and Adults, \$3 M/\$5 NM

Come help the Watershed Association Naturalists get ready for maple sugaring season 2011! Join us for a short talk

about maple sugaring. Then head out on the property and assist as we tap our maple trees.

FEBRUARY 5

Ground Hog Day Celebration

Saturday, 10:30 AM–12 PM, Families, \$5 suggested donation per person

Celebrate Groundhog's Day at the Watershed Reserve. We'll hike our trails to visit several groundhog burrows and learn about the natural history of these furry weather forecasters. Come dressed for wintry, muddy and possibly snowy walking conditions. *This program is co-sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon Society.*

FEBRUARY 5

Back to Camp—Summer Camp Open House

Saturday, 1–4 PM, Families (children entering grades 1–9), FREE

The weather outside may say winter but we are thinking SUMMER! Today offers families a chance to talk with our Camp Director, explore the Buttinger Nature Center and register your children for summer camp. Drop by Monday through Saturday to register your child in person for summer camp. Visit our website, thewatershed.org, for complete summer camp info.

FEBRUARY 11

Valentine Night Hike

Friday, 7–9 PM, Families and Adults, \$8 M/\$12 NM

Join nocturnal Naturalist and Education Director Jeff Hoagland to explore the night on the Watershed Reserve. We will search for nocturnal creatures, calling for owls and foxes, and ponder the connection between some of the animals on the Reserve and the season of love. Dress warmly.



FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1 AND APRIL 12

Voices in American Nature Writing— Adult Reading Group

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 PM, Adults and Older Teens

Explore the wide and varied terrain of nature writing, wildness and wilderness in America in this lecture/discussion series facilitated by Education Director Jeff Hoagland. Participants should read the selection prior to monthly discussion. Registration is required and is exclusively through Princeton Adult School, www.princetonadultschool.org. Program meets at the Buttinger Nature Center.

FEBRUARY 1— “Sky Time in Gray’s River:
Living for Keeps in a Forgotten Place”
by Robert Michael Pyle

MARCH 1— “Ecology of a Cracker Childhood”
by Janisse Ray

APRIL 12— “Encounters with the Archdruid”
by John McPhee

FEBRUARY 12

Geocache Event—Winter Exploration

*Saturday, 1–3 PM, Families and Adults, \$5 donation
requested donation per person*

This popular hike is the perfect introduction to the ecology of winter as well as geocaching. Watch for more details at www.geocaching.com or contact the Buttinger Nature Center at (609) 737-7592.

FEBRUARY 26

Maple Sugar Brunch and Hike

*Saturday, two sittings: 11 AM–1 PM and 12:30–2:30 PM,
Families*

Fee: Members \$15/adult, \$12/child under 12 years old

Non-members \$20/adult, \$17/child under 12 years old

FREE all children under 3 years old

Bring your entire family to learn about maple sugaring. Enjoy tree tapping, sap collection/boiling and a brief discussion of the ecology and history of maple sugaring. Included is a pancake brunch, complete with buttermilk pancakes, bacon, fruit, coffee/tea, juice and hot cocoa, as well as homemade Watershed syrup. Please register for either the 11AM or 12:30PM brunch sitting. Registration is required and space is limited—sorry no day of event walk-ins. Full payment is required at time of registration.

MARCH 5

In Search of Skunk Cabbage

Saturday, 10–11:30 AM, Families and Adults, \$4 M/\$6 NM

Join us on this hike to meet this unusual plant as well as search for other signs of spring on the Reserve. Come dressed for muddy walking conditions.

MARCH 12

Bluebirds and Bluebird Houses on the Reserve

Saturday, 1 PM, Families, \$5 suggested donation per person

Learn more about our native bluebirds, how we monitor their nesting sites and what you can do at home to attract these birds to your yard. Come dressed for the weather and possibly wet or muddy conditions. *This program is co-sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon Society.*

MARCH 19

Let’s Fly a Kite

*Saturday, 10:30 AM–12 PM, Families (children 4 and older),
Fee per child: \$8 M/\$12 NM (includes all materials),
no charge for adults*

Celebrate the early breezes of spring by flying a kite with one of our Naturalists! Choose from several different designs and construct your own kite to set aloft in the fresh springtime air. Registration required.

MARCH 19

Summer Camp Open House

Saturday, 1–4 PM, Families, FREE

See February 5 for description.

APRIL 2

Vernal Pools of the Sourland Mountains

Saturday, 10 AM–12 PM, Families and Adults, \$5 per person

Join Naturalist Allison Jackson on this hike and explore vernal pools in the Sourland Mountains, learning about life cycles and the food web. This program does not meet at the Buttinger Nature Center. *This program is co-sponsored by the Sourlands Planning Council.*

APRIL 9

Principyclopedia 2011 at Princeton University

Saturday, 10 AM–3 PM, Families, FREE

Join us at the Cotsen Children’s Library of Princeton University. This family book convention will highlight “The Lightning Thief” by Rick Riordan. Registration is not required. For more information, visit www.princeton.edu/cotsen.

APRIL 16

Foraging for Wild Edibles in Spring

*Saturday, 8:30 AM–12:30 PM, Adults and Teens,
Fee per person: \$20 M/\$25 NM*

Join Education Director Jeff Hoagland on this delicious hike of the Watershed Reserve in search of wild edible plants.

Explore the traditions of our European and Native American roots (no pun intended) as we eat our way through forest and field! Learn to identify and enjoy a variety of wild edibles.

APRIL 22

Earth Day Hike

Friday, 1–3 PM, Adults and Families, \$5 suggested donation per person

Celebrate Earth Day with us on the Reserve as we hike to the Stony Brook. *This program is co-sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon Society.*

APRIL 25

Annual Meeting

Monday, 5:30 PM light refreshments, 6 PM Meeting and Nature Hike, Members and their families!

Welcome new members to our Board of Trustees, elect new Board officers and honor environmental leaders! Stay tuned for more at thewatershed.org.

APRIL 29

Frog Slog

*Friday, 8 PM, Families (children 6 years and up) and Adults,
Fee per person: \$8 M/\$12 NM*

Discover the secret life of frogs on a special late night hike with Education Director Jeff Hoagland at the soggy and sonic Watershed landscape of the Association's pond. Come with sharp ears and eyes, as well as a flashlight. Wear boots and be prepared for wet and muddy walking conditions. This program does not meet at the Buttinger Nature Center.

Children's Programs

FEBRUARY 18 AND 22

Winter Fun Days

Friday and Tuesday, 9:30 AM–4 PM, children 6–12 years old, Fee per child each day: \$50 M/\$65 NM, extended day available for \$15/child per day (8:30 AM–5:30 PM)

Sibling Discount: Register 2+ siblings for the same day and take \$5 off each child's fee.

Multi-day Discount: Register one child for both days and take \$10 off.

February is a great time to bundle up against the cold and go outside to look for animal tracks in the snow...search for the first groundhogs to emerge from their burrows... learn about maple sugaring! We will plan a full day of wintry fun—even a pancake lunch with the Naturalists each day, featuring homemade Watershed maple syrup!

APRIL 4–8, APRIL 18–22

Spring Mini-Camp I & II

Children 6–12 years old, 9:30 AM–4PM, Fee per day per child: \$50 M/\$65 NM

Extended day available 8:30 AM–5:30 PM at extra cost (\$15 per day per child)

Sibling Discount: Register 2+ siblings for the same day and take \$10 off each child's fee.

Multi-day Discount: Register your child for 2+ days and take \$10 off each day's fee.

Our popular School Spring Break Mini-Camps are back! Register for as many days as you want or need—we have different outdoor activities for each day, such as a walk to the pond or the stream, shelter building, hiking and afternoon campfires with a marshmallow roast. Dress appropriately for early spring weather. Children bring their lunch each day. Advance registration is required—sorry, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Payment is due at time of registration. Call the Buttinger Nature Center for availability. Please take advantage of only one discount.

APRIL 23

Nature Camouflage Egg Hunt

Saturday, 10:30 AM, Families (children 3–11 years old)

Fee per child: \$7 M/\$10 NM, No charge for adults

Wander through the fields and forests of our nature reserve with our Naturalists to see how many naturally dyed eggs you can discover.

Tiny Tot Walks

(Ages 18–36 months, child must be walking and accompanied by adult)

10–11 AM, Fee per child: \$7 M/\$10 NM

Join Pam Newitt on an outdoor adventure with your budding naturalist as she leads toddlers on explorations of the natural world. After our December walk, we take a little winter 'hibernation', starting up again in spring!

DECEMBER 13

MARCH 24

APRIL 18

Winter Preschool Series

Children 3–5 years old, parent must stay with child under 4 years old

Tuesday, 10–11:30 AM and Wednesday, 1–2:30 PM

Fee per session: \$10 M/\$15 NM

Fee per series: \$45 M/\$75 NM

There are two winter series. Both series are six weeks long. Register for one or both series, or sessions individually.

Series I—six weeks

JANUARY 4/5

Story Time Winter

Spend a wintry day with us listening to nature stories. Bring a blanket to curl up with and a teddy bear to hug. New stories—new crafts.

JANUARY 18/19

Creatures of the Night

Have you ever heard different noises outside at night? Come learn which animals sleep through the night and which animals are wide-awake. We will put faces to the sounds that we hear going bump in the night.

JANUARY 25/26

Insects in the Winter

Deep in the winter, we know that some animals hibernate, some remain active, and insects... uh...um...what do insects do to survive those cold winter months?

FEBRUARY 1/2

Groundhog Day

Celebrate Groundhog Day at the Watershed Reserve! We'll visit some groundhog homes and learn all about these furry creatures. We'll even make a groundhog craft to take home.

FEBRUARY 8/9

Gift from a Tree: Maple Sugaring

We will find out where maple syrup comes from as we visit tapped trees, gather sap, and take part in the maple sugaring process. Everyone gets to enjoy a taste of the finished product!

FEBRUARY 15/16

Have a Heart

Thump thump, thump thump... Have a heart, and join us for an exploration of the circulatory systems of various animals, such as insects, mammals, reptiles, and more. We will make a valentine for our favorite animal (or person)!

Series II—six weeks

MARCH 1/2

Bears

Who is afraid of the big black bear? NOT US!!! In this program we learn all about bears... what they look like, what they eat, play some “beary” good games, and find out what special things they are doing this time of year!

MARCH 8/9

Turtle Time

What animal carries their home on their back, likes to hang out in the mud during winter, and is considered a slowpoke in most stories? A turtle!!!!!! Come join us as learn about turtles, not to mention getting to visit the turtles that call the Nature Center home!

MARCH 15/16

Ready or Not...

Here we come! Today we will talk about what plants and animals are in nature and where they possibly could be hiding! Then we take a hike looking to uncover some of these discreet animals and play a game of hide and seek!

MARCH 22/23

The Bunny Hop

Winter is nearing its end and spring is upon us. A few animals have been with us, wide-awake and alert the whole time, one being the Eastern Cottontail. We will have a “hoppy” good time as we learn about our furry friend!

MARCH 29/30

Stalking Shadows

Who is that friend who follows you all the time? It's your shadow!!! Today we are going to learn what it takes to make a shadow, play some shadowy games, and maybe try and even step on our own shadows. Come join us for a great time!

APRIL 5/6

Journey to the Past

Attention all young paleontologists! Come and join us as we delve deep into our prehistoric past and learn about the beasts that once roamed the earth. We will even go on our very own dino-dig to see what it is like unearthing these fine creatures.

Winter School-age Series

Children 6–9 years old, parents are not required to stay

Thursdays, 4–5:30 PM

Fee per session: \$12 M/\$17 NM

Fee per series: \$57 M/\$87 NM

There are two winter series. Both are six weeks long. Register for one or both series, or sessions individually.

Series I—six weeks

JANUARY 6

Reuse, Rejoice!

Let's create new things out of garbage! We will also learn what things around the world have been made from recycled and reused materials!

JANUARY 13

Winter Wander-land Treasure Hunt!

Come out into the wintry fields with us for an adventurous treasure hike! Follow your nose and map to find clues and locate a chest of wintry treasure! Wear boots and warm clothes!

JANUARY 20

Turtle Tales

Cozy up to a few good turtle stories. We will learn about turtles, especially what they do in the winter, and then explore outside a little bit, make a turtle craft to take home!

FEBRUARY 3

Hog Hunt!

It's time for the ground "hogs" to emerge from their winter dens! Let's look for groundhog footprints, dens, and food on a walk through the forest, then do groundhog-related activities!

FEBRUARY 10

Winter Puppets

Join us for puppet making! An old sock, some string, sequins, and other craft items will be made into a new favorite character! Then we will invent stories for our puppets and act them out.

FEBRUARY 17

Oh, Sugar!

It is that time again—maple sugaring time! Learn how maple trees produce sap, how we transform maple tree sap into sugary syrup, and then participate in our maple syrup taste test!

Series II—six weeks

MARCH 3

My Winter Garden

It's time to start a garden—inside! We will learn about seeds, plant some seeds in pots, and do a seed search outside on our hike! Let's get sprouting!

MARCH 10

Kid vs. Wild

Do you know what it takes to survive? We will learn the basic things all living things need to survive, do some experiments, and build an animal shelter!

MARCH 17

Barking Up The Right Tree

Trees are great, aren't they? Learn tree parts, how to tell trees apart, and important things that come from trees. Are you ready to take the tree challenge?

MARCH 24

Ooey Goey Science!

Calling all mad scientists! Let's explore the wacky world of science concoctions. Come prepared to get messy!

MARCH 31

Animal Aviators

Hats off to those amazing flying animals! Let's find out what makes them such good flyers. Then build a flying object, and have some fun testing it out in the fields!

APRIL 7

Wanderin' Watercolors

Make your own portable watercolor paint studio—then take to the trails to explore, observe, and paint what we find!



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✉ EMAIL: To contact staff by email, use the first letter of the person's first name, followed by the last name: for example, jwaltman@thewatershed.org

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Rocky Hill
Roosevelt
South Brunswick
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Environmental Education

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as part of the Monarch Magic program. Bringing the program—and the butterflies—to the school helped alleviate the need for busing.

The possibilities remain endless for fortifying student knowledge about their environment. To learn more about how the Watershed Association can provide programming for your school, Contact the Buttinger Nature Center at (609) 737-7592 or visit us online at <http://www.thewatershed.org/education/for-teachers>.

For more information visit: thewatershed.org


Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington NJ 08534
Main office phone: (609) 737-3735 Fax: (609) 737-3075



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Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 4

12:30–3 PM

Families welcome!

FREE

Back to Camp

Summer Camp Open House
Saturday, February 5 • 1–4 PM

Families (children entering
grades 1 through 9)

FREE



Want to learn more? See the Calendar of Events pages 10–14 or call (609) 737-7592.