

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

WELLSPRING

Your water. Your environment. Your voice.



Hard Work Yields Top Honors



The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association capped off a year of special 60th Anniversary celebrations by receiving one of New Jersey's top honors for environmental leadership.

Winner of the 2009 New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, the Watershed Association was recognized for its outstanding leadership

and dedication to protecting clean water and the environment by Governor Jon Corzine and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection at an awards ceremony held at Drumthwacket, the governor's official residence, in Princeton NJ on Thursday, December 3.

Nominated by Hopewell resident and former Watershed Association Board Chair U.S. Representative Rush Holt (D-12), the Watershed Association won for its "Six Decades of Determination" in the award's Water Resources category.

"Today being 'green' is all the rage, but 60 years ago only one organization was on the front lines protecting clean water and the environment in central New Jersey," said Congressman Holt. "The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association—one of the first watershed associations in the nation—greatly deserves this award."

Founded in 1949 by a handful of citizens concerned about soil erosion and environmentally responsible land use practices, the Watershed Association has grown to become one of the largest and most respected watershed associations in the state, making the "CASE" for clean water and a healthy environment through Conservation, Advocacy, Science, and Education.

"For six decades the Watershed Association has led the way with a farsighted vision of protection for our lakes, rivers and streams," said Jim Waltman, Watershed Association Executive Director. "From soil erosion and sedimentation in the 1950s to challenges associated with climate change and global warming today, the Watershed Association

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Decade #7

This year—2010—marks the start of the Watershed Association’s seventh decade. For 60 years, we’ve worked to protect your water and your environment in our central New Jersey region.

Thanks to the dedication of hundreds of staff and Trustees, thousands of volunteers and the generosity of tens of thousands of members and donors, we’ve had many great successes over our first six decades.

But the reality is that our region faces enormous environmental challenges and we have so much work still to do.

Last year, we identified two overarching goals for the organization: to protect and restore our waterways to ensure that they are “swimmable” and “fishable” (standards from the federal Clean Water Act), and to protect and restore a network of high priority habitats to sustain the fish, wildlife and people of our region.

Two recent Watershed Association reports provide benchmarks against which we will measure our success over the coming years.

Our first ever “State of the Watershed” report, featured in the winter issue of the *Wellspring*, provides a snapshot view of water quality in our region, identifies the major threats to clean water, and actions that local governments are (and aren’t) taking to address these threats. (Now available at www.thewatershed.org.)

The Forest and Riparian Conservation Plan we have produced in partnership with New Jersey Audubon Society and the Raritan Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership identifies key forest and streamside habitats in need of preservation and restoration. (See page 6).

We will employ conservation, advocacy, science and education in the pursuit of these goals and investigate, implement and model technologies and behaviors that can put our region on a more sustainable path—things like solar energy, low flow plumbing fixtures, propane lawn machinery and permeable pavement that we have featured in recent issues of the *Wellspring*.

Look to this publication, our Web site (currently undergoing a major renovation), our Facebook page and other electronic communications from us on tips to reduce your own environmental footprint. Better yet, let us know what you are doing to protect the environment so that we can share your stories with others.



Paperless Renewal Is Here!

In an effort to conserve our natural resources and save some ‘green’ the Watershed Association has launched membership renewals via email! Anyone who checked ‘yes’ on our 2009 E-communications Survey will receive a membership renewal notice via email with a link to our new online donation page.

To go ‘paper-free’ in 2010 email member@thewatershed.org

And please renew online at http://thewatershed.org/getinv_member.php.





STREAMWATCHING

Focus on the Rocky Brook Subwatershed

Rocky Brook begins its journey to the Millstone River in Millstone Township, flowing northwest through Hightstown and East Windsor. One of its main features is Peddie Lake in Hightstown. In 2008, Peddie Lake was the location of a triathlon. During the summer of 2009, Hightstown officials opened Peddie Lake to residents for swimming. Naturally, the question arose: "Is Peddie Lake safe for swimming?"

The Watershed Association tests Peddie Lake for nutrients, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and temperature. This data provides information on the lake's health for the plants and animals living there, and our results indicate that the lake is healthy for all parameters. To answer the question on swimming safety for people, the Watershed Association began testing for E. coli bacteria in June 2009. Overall, results were good, with only one sample in September indicating that E. coli bacteria were at unsafe levels.

In addition to testing on Peddie Lake, the Watershed Association began testing Rocky Brook where it flows through Hightstown's Environmental Resource Area. Data collected there also indicates the stream is healthy.

We are working with officials in Hightstown, East Windsor and Millstone Township to ensure Rocky Brook stays clean for all who live and play there. For example, adopting a strong stream corridor ordinance protects streams by limiting development in proximity to them and maintaining a natural buffer of plants to help filter pollutants. While East Windsor has a strong stream corridor protection ordinance, Hightstown does not have one, and Millstone's could be updated to protect streams better. Adopting strong stream corridor protection ordinances is critical to help reduce the high loss of streamside habitat that is threatening Rocky Brook.



The Rocky Brook near Milford Street in East Windsor.

The Watershed Association thanks the volunteers for collecting data and looks forward to working with them and municipal officials throughout the coming year.

Scorecard



RANKINGS Good ● Fair ● Poor ●

StreamWatch is made possible by generous support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Janssen Pharmaceutica.

** Rankings based on data from NJ DEP Land Use/Land Cover flyover reports and Watershed Association data and scientific methodologies.*



CONSERVATION BEGINS AT HOME

Hopewell Valley Golf Club is River-Friendly

The Watershed Association congratulates Hopewell Valley Golf Club for achieving River-Friendly Certification! Our River-Friendly Golf Course Certification Program is designed to help golf course superintendents and managers enhance their land management practices to benefit the environment, residents, golfers and the community. We provide one-on-one consultation to establish tailored goals for each course as well as resources to assist in achieving these goals.

The 180-acre Hopewell Valley Golf Club is adjacent to the Watershed Reserve in Hopewell Township and features the Stony Brook. To become River-Friendly, Hopewell Valley Golf Club completed actions in each of the program's four categories: water quality management, water conservation techniques, wildlife habitat enhancement, and education outreach.

“Through the River-Friendly Program, we have been able to integrate our golf course with the environment while keeping both members and wildlife happy,” said Matt Stout, Superintendent of Hopewell Valley Golf Club.

The course performed soil tests, changed to organic fertilizer, implemented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and improved drainage on the course. These measures resulted in reduced chemical use and improvements to water quality. In addition, through irrigation system maintenance and hand watering, the course has lowered its water use. Reducing mowed areas, adding native plant and wildflower areas, and adding 40 birdhouses also created new wildlife habitats.

The course also applies other sustainable practices—pervious gravel paths (which allows water to soak back into the ground) have replaced worn asphalt cart paths, tee markers and cart path markers are made from on-site materials, and the course installed a bridge made of recycled materials. The golf course promotes these and all of the River-Friendly techniques to its golf members as examples of what can be done at home.

The Watershed Association's River-Friendly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a peer group of independent reviewers, met to discuss the course's achievements and made the decision to award River-Friendly Certification in December 2009. One TAC member commented:



Hopewell Valley Golf Club created no-mow/no-spray habitat areas to earn River-Friendly certification.

“Hopewell Valley Golf Club has embraced the River-Friendly Program and serves as a great model for demonstrating environmental stewardship.”

Achieving certification status has not halted the courses' environmental efforts. They plan to continue refining techniques to make further improvements. A certification event and award ceremony for Hopewell Valley Golf Club is being planned for 2010.

Hopewell Valley Golf Club Accomplishment Highlights

71 percent reduction in chemical use
50 percent reduction in water use
8-acre increase in habitat
1-acre increase in stream and pond buffers

River-Friendly Certified

Golf Courses

Hopewell Valley Golf Club, 2009
TPC at Jasna Polana, 2005

Businesses

Bristol-Myers Squibb, Hopewell Campus, 2006
Carriage Farms, 2007
Janssen Pharmaceutica, 2004
Johnson & Johnson, Skillman Campus, 2006
Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, Reserve, 2005
Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority, 2007

Schools

Princeton Junior School, 2008

Plus more than 100 River-Friendly Residents!

STREAM CLEANUP LOGO DESIGN

We Have a Winner

Congratulations to Vera Crabtree, age 10, of Hightstown for the winning submission in our 2010 Stream Clean-up Logo Design contest! Selected from a strong field of graphic renderings and drawings, Vera's creativity impressed the panel of judges. Close behind were designs by Tony Popowski of Eatontown and Lauren Scott of Cranbury.

Artists of all ages were challenged to come up with a design that embodied the spirit of watershed preservation and clean water. "The range and variety of submissions was a pleasant surprise," said Leslie Brecknell, community advocacy coordinator. "Their high quality made judging difficult, but we are pleased with our winner."

The winning graphic will be featured on 2010 Stream Clean-up T-shirts, promotional materials and the Watershed Association Web site. In addition, Vera will receive a complimentary T-shirt.



Vera Crabtree's winning design!

To promote watershed awareness and stewardship, the Watershed Association is holding its 4th Annual Stream Clean-ups on two weekends: April 24–25 and May 1–2, in municipalities throughout the watershed. In 2009, 240 volunteers pulled on their boots and dragged 3.5 tons of

trash from local waterways in 11 towns. Stay tuned to www.thewatershed.org for a location and time near you or contact Leslie Brecknell at lbrecknell@thewatershed.org!

Top Honors continued from page 1

continues to fight for your water and environment. We are your environmental voice."

"I am proud to shine the spotlight on these people and projects that are making a world of difference in communities across New Jersey," added Governor Jon Corzine. "Throughout the Garden State, people are rolling up their sleeves and doing remarkable things because they truly care about protecting their environment, helping



The Watershed Association receives high honors from Governor Jon Corzine.

their neighbors, and making New Jersey a better place to call home."

The New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards were established 10 years ago by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state.

Coordinated by the DEP, a panel of judges evaluates nominees on the long-term benefits their work has achieved as well as innovation. The New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities are co-sponsors of this award.

Award categories include: Clean Air, Healthy Ecosystems, Land Conservation, Water Resources, Innovative Technology, Environmental Leadership, Environmental Stewardship, Sustainable & Healthy Communities, and Environmental Education/Student Activity.

PRESERVATION

Protecting Our Rivers and Forests

What areas in central New Jersey are high priority targets for preservation and protection? As a member of the Raritan-Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership (RPWHP)—a diverse group of private and public organizations—the Watershed Association is working to find out.

Through a grant from Conservation Resources Inc. (made possible by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation), the Watershed Association and

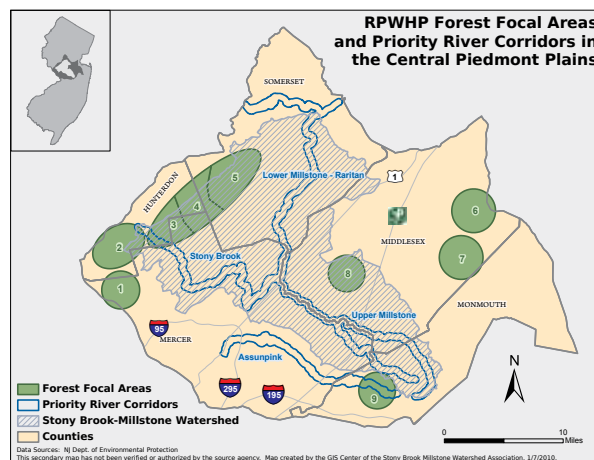
RPWHP are creating a “Forest and Riparian Conservation Plan” for the Central Piedmont Plains—an area of central New Jersey that connects the Pinelands in the south to the Highlands in the north.

Using priorities identified for this region by the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan (found at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/waphome.htm) the RPWHP conservation plan identifies specific target locations for preservation or restoration of our forests and river corridors. The Watershed Association and NJ Audubon Society have worked jointly on the forest and river conservation plan.

By overlapping GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data on endangered species, habitats and rare plants, four priority river corridors in the Central Piedmont Plains have been identified. These four corridors help facilitate wildlife movement between the Pinelands and Highlands. The four priority river corridors are the Assunpink, Stony Brook, Upper Millstone and Lower Millstone/Raritan rivers.

Again by overlapping key data on endangered species, habitat and rare plants, nine forest focal areas have been identified as priorities for preservation or restoration (see map above). Large core patches of forest are important for the survival of forest animals, particularly birds.

Within these high priority target areas, the RPWHP conservation plan also recommends specific actions to preserve, conserve and protect these critical natural areas and habitats. The appropriate action to take depends on whether the land is publicly or privately owned and the level of



preservation or development to date. Responsible land management—restoring streambanks, conducting reforestations and implementing River-Friendly strategies—are encouraged to improve the health of the target areas. Acquisition and easement options are also encouraged to increase the connectivity between currently preserved areas and target areas.

Once the conservation plan is complete, the Watershed Association and RPWHP partners will begin to implement this important plan and take action to conserve our high priority natural places, bringing benefits to the wildlife and people of central New Jersey.

Funding for the RPWHP Forest and Riparian Conservation Plan was provided by Conservation Resources Inc. through a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Happy 10th Anniversary Watershed Institute!

The Watershed Institute, a program of the Watershed Association, celebrates its 10th anniversary this May. Since 2000, the Institute has served New Jersey's watershed groups by holding workshops, providing grants, providing one-on-one assistance and more.

“There are more than 30 active watershed groups in New Jersey, many of which are run by volunteers,” said Alyse Greenberg, Program Coordinator for the Institute. “The Institute provides their boards and staff with the resources they need to enhance the strength, effectiveness, and sustainability of their organizations.”

In celebration of its accomplishments, the Institute will be holding a party on Thursday, May 13. Please join us to reflect upon 10 years of service to New Jersey watershed groups. Contact Alyse at agreenberg@thewatershed.org or (609) 737-3735 x27 to learn more.

SPEAKING OF NATURE

The Call of the Water

by Jeff Hoagland

Every spring, with the rise in temperature and birdsong, I return to the stream. It's as if I am guided by gravity as I flow across the landscape to the waterway. I know that I am a part of the water cycle, but this journey seems so much more poetic than my daily involvement in that cycle—the routine of drinking, using and releasing water. This journey is a pilgrimage.

I have been drawn to water for as long as I can remember. The streams in my childhood were captivating, full of strange and wondrous creatures. Here on the banks of a small stream, I fell in love over and over again. With salamanders and mayflies. With crayfish and water striders. With green frogs and garter snakes. Within and around this water was a whole world teeming with life.

two-lined salamander

I return to its place

the last skipping stone

Published in "bottle rockets"

I was drawn by the movement of water as well. I followed the water, as an explorer and adventurer, to find out where the stream was going and what lived downstream. Joined by friends we had stick boat races, floating little sticks downstream and memorizing the currents and eddies. As we proceeded downstream, the stream got a little wider and in places, a little deeper. Eventually we got distracted by some encounter with wildlife or started skipping stones. We would abandon our race knowing that we would return tomorrow and go a little further.

"Where does all this water come from?" someone asked. While this was an obvious question it was one that we systematically avoided since our explorations downstream took us further away from home, deeper into adventure and closer to the Big River—the Delaware. Tracing the stream to its origin would take us closer to home but the source of the stream was a mystery to be solved. We abandoned our downstream adventures and headed upstream.



The journey upstream was no less adventurous. We threaded our way through some memorable brambles, creeping and crawling our way upstream through the water. Soon we could hear an occasional car on a nearby road, the sound of civilization. Puzzled, we inched forward, bellies in the mud and there it was, the source of all this water, all these incredible creatures and our full catalog of adventures—a concrete pipe!

We were thrilled with our discovery and for a brief moment we entertained the idea that we alone had discovered the source of this stream. And while that sense of discovery filled us with pride, I began to fill with skepticism. How could something so beautiful, so full of life, come from a concrete pipe?

Determined to find some natural source of the stream, we returned with flashlights in hand, to explore further. As suburban spelunkers we continued upstream, discovering that the stream was born, in part, in that network of storm drains coming right out of our neighborhood. With skinned elbows and mud-stained clothes I suddenly saw the water cycle in a new light—this truly was *our* stream! During the next big rain storm, we all raced outside to launch stick boats in the water rushing down the street to the storm drain.

It is hard to take water for granted when you have invested time and energy to understand it in the course of play. It is hard to take for granted when you have discovered the creatures that live in it. It is hard to take for granted when you hear music in its movement.

"If there is magic in this world, it is contained in water." Long before I read Loren Eiseley's words in his classic "The Immense Journey" I knew this as fact. We should join our children at the water's edge and revel in the magic. We should encourage their exploration and acknowledge their discoveries. We should unleash them to a world that is full of wonder and valuable lessons.



LAND USE

Our region has changed from an agricultural region to an area with increased urban development. Thankfully, our forests and wetlands have remained relatively intact.

To make sure they stay that way, strong forest and stream corridor protection ordinances are vital.

TOO MUCH PHOSPHORUS

Excess levels of orthophosphate in our watershed are harming aquatic life. With a majority of soils in our watershed already laden with phosphate, additional fertilizers packed with phosphates are not needed. Using phosphate-free fertilizers and cleaning products will improve water quality and benefit aquatic life.

Water Matters

Today our water is threatened as never before. From population growth and increased development to environmental changes associated with global warming, central New Jersey's lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater sources face numerous challenges. Our first ever "State of the Watershed Report" (now available at www.thewatershed.org) examines the interrelated connections between water quality, environmental policy and land use. Here are a few of the connections we found:

STREAM & FOREST PROTECTION

Streams buffers and forests protect our streams by providing shade for aquatic life and keeping excess sediment and nutrients out. Several of the municipalities in our watershed have strong forest and stream corridor ordinances in place. Strengthening these measures in all our towns is critical to ensure our water is healthy.

SEPTIC AND SEWER MAINTENANCE

The majority of our watershed violates state standards for bacteria, is not safe for swimming and fishing, and the majority of towns where septic systems are used have not adopted strong septic ordinances. Strengthening environmental policy and educating homeowners is vital to ensuring we all have clean water to drink and use.

PEOPLE POLLUTION

Polluted run-off—or "people" pollution—from excess lawn fertilizers, leaking septic and sewer systems, pet waste, trash and animal waste, is the biggest contributor to water pollution in our watershed. Increasing development leads to greater "people" pollution.

Everyone in central New Jersey needs to take individual action and be part of the solution to our environmental problems. How? Become River-Friendly! From picking up your pet's waste and testing your soil before using lawn fertilizer, to telling your municipal leaders you want see septic management, stream and tree protection ordinances on the books in your hometown, together we can ensure we all have clean water and a healthy environment for years to come. Call (609) 737-3735 or email river-friendly@thewatershed.org to become River-Friendly today.



Events Calendar—Spring 2010

Family & Adult Programs

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Children's Programs

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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

MARCH 20

Summer Environmental Day Camp Open House

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

Today offers families a chance to talk with the Camp Director, explore the Buttinger Nature Center, walk our trails and register their children for summer camp. Can't make it on March 20? No problem... because EVERY DAY is an 'Open House' at the Buttinger Nature Center. You are also invited to drop by Monday through Saturday to register your child in person for summer camp. Visit www.thewatershed.org for complete summer camp information.

MARCH 27

Build a Birdhouse

Saturday, 1:30-3:30 PM, Families, Fee per birdhouse: \$15

Experience the joy and excitement of watching a bird raise its family by building your own birdhouse with one of our

naturalists. Each participant can construct a birdhouse from a kit and take it home.

APRIL 3

Vernal Pools of the Sourland Mountains

*Saturday, 10 AM-12 PM, Families and Adults,
\$5 suggested donation 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, perhaps encountering wood frogs or spotted salamanders as well as a variety of other native creatures. This program does not meet at the Buttinger Nature Center. *This program is co-sponsored by the Sourlands Planning Council.*

APRIL 17

Foraging for Wild Edibles in Spring

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

Join us on this delicious hike with Education Director Jeff Hoagland on 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!

APRIL 22

Earth Day On the Reserve— Choose Your Own Adventure

Thursday, 5 PM-dusk, Families, FREE

Visit the Watershed Reserve after work or school in honor of Earth Day. The Buttinger Nature Center will be open late so that visitors can celebrate this special day outdoors.

APRIL 23

Frog Slog

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


Discover the secret life of frogs on a special late night hike with Education Director Jeff Hoagland at the soggy and sonic landscape of the Watershed 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.

APRIL 24

StreamWatch Training

Saturday, 1-4:30 PM, Adults and children age 14 and up.

Become a StreamWatcher and help monitor the health of



the water in our watershed. This training is for Chemical Action Team participants. Volunteers need to be at least 14 years old. Registration is required. For site locations, to learn more or sign up contact StreamWatch Program Coordinator Beth April at (609) 737-3735 x17

APRIL 24 AND 25/MAY 1 AND 2

4th Annual Stream Clean-ups

Saturday and Sunday, Families, FREE

Help us keep the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed clean and healthy! Join us to pick up trash at a stream in your community. Want to volunteer or make sure your town takes part? Contact Community Advocacy Coordinator Leslie Brecknell at (609) 737-3735 x30 or lbrecknell@thewatershed.org.

APRIL 26

Annual Meeting

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

Join us as we welcome in new members to our Board of Trustees, elect new Board officers and honor environmental leaders. Learn more about the Watershed Association's exciting plans for the future and hear from a possible surprise guest speaker! Stay tuned for more at www.thewatershed.org.

MAY 4 AND 8

Exploring the Night: Nocturnal Ecology Presentation and Walk

Tuesday, May 4, 7–8 PM, Lecture, Adults only

Saturday, May 8, 8–10 PM, Night Hike, Adults only

Explore the mysterious world of nature at night on this illuminating adults-only night hike on the Watershed Reserve. Our first session will be a slide lecture featuring some of the sights and sounds of the nocturnal animal world. After this introduction, we will venture out into the dark in search of some of the secrets of the night. This program is offered through Princeton Adult School and day of event walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Register exclusively at www.princetonadultschool.org.

MAY 8

Planet Walk—Stroll the Solar System

Saturday, 10 AM–12 PM, Families and Adults, \$4M/\$6NM

Join amateur astronomer Dick Peery and Watershed Association staff for a stroll through a scale model of the planets, along the way learning how much space there is in space. Weather permitting we'll take a look at the Sun with a special solar telescope. There is no raindate for this event. Hike is approximately 1–2 miles.

Attend the Rally!

Join the Watershed Association at the 14th annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally—one of the nation's largest statewide conservation training and networking events—on March 20 at Montclair State University. The Watershed Association has helped plan the Rally for more than five years. If you are involved in land preservation or management, come out and experience the energy and camaraderie of Rally. To learn more, visit www.njconservation.org/rally.

MAY 15

The Ecology of Princeton Institute Woods

Saturday, 9 AM–12 PM, Adults, \$5 suggested donation per person

Join Dr. Henry Horn, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, for this popular and enlightening look at forest dynamics in Princeton Institute Woods. *This program is co-sponsored by the Washington Crossing Audubon Society.*

MAY 15

Summer Environmental Day Camp Open House

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

See March 20 for details.

MAY 22

Great Watershed Stream Exploration—Beden Brook in Opossum Road Woods

Saturday, 10 AM–12 PM, Families and Adults, \$5M/\$8NM

We will visit the Beden Brook in Opossum Road Woods in Montgomery Township to explore the web of life that connects the aquatic environment of the stream and the surrounding terrestrial habitat using a variety of tools including seines and nets. Bring old sneakers for wading, dry shoes to change into and a sense of wonder.

JUNE 4

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the Reserve

Friday, 5:30–7:30 PM, Families, FREE

Watershed Association volunteers and their families are invited to enjoy a picnic at the Watershed Reserve. It's our way of saying 'Thank you!' for all the hard work and countless hours of dedicated effort our volunteers put in each year. Stay tuned to www.thewatershed.org for more information.

JUNE 5

Fairy Festival

Saturday, 10 AM–1 PM, Families, \$5 per person or \$15 per family

Come to our festival celebrating the arrival of Rainbow Fairies, Woodland Fairies and Water Sprites. We will dance around a maypole, make our very own magical crafts to take home, and welcome our new guests by constructing villages along the Fairy Trail and play in the stream with the Water Sprites! Fairy finery optional!

JUNE 12

Kate Gorrie Butterfly House 2010 Opening

Saturday, 10 AM–2 PM, Families, \$5 donation per person suggested

Welcome the butterflies back to the Kate Gorrie Butterfly House. Naturalists will be on hand all day to lead tours and answer questions about native butterflies, host plants and butterfly lifecycles. Plan to also visit the animals and displays in the Buttinger Nature Center. Pre-registration is not required. *This program is co-sponsored by the Washington Crossing Audubon Society.*

JUNE 26

Whatever Floats Your Boat

Saturday, 1:30–3 PM, Families and adults, \$5 donation per person suggested

Stream-lovers and geocachers are welcomed for some fun and adventure on the Watershed Reserve. We will examine the relationship between land and water, meeting a variety of creatures as we launch small boats down the Stony Brook. Watch for more details of this event-cache at www.geocaching.com or contact the Buttinger Nature Center.

JUNE 29

Exploring the Night: Firefly Parade

Tuesday, 8:30 PM, Families and Adults, Fee: \$8M/\$12NM
Enjoy “nature’s fireworks” with Jeff Hoagland on the Watershed Reserve. Learn about the secret lives of the lightning bug, from glowworm to adult, and meet a variety of species, identifying them by their different flash patterns. This popular annual event always fills up—space is limited and pre-registration is required.



Children’s Programs

APRIL 3

Nature Camouflage Egg Hunt

*Saturday, 10 AM, Families (children 3–11 years old)
Fee per child: \$7M/\$10NM, No charge for adults*

Join our Naturalists and wander through the fields and forests of our nature reserve to see how many naturally dyed eggs you can discover. Children should bring a basket or bag for egg gathering.

MAY 18, 25 & JUNE 1, 8

Movin’ Naturally—Yoga for Children

Tuesdays, 3:30–4:15 PM, ages 3–5 years (parent must stay with 3 year olds)

Tuesdays, 4:15–5 PM, ages 6–8 years (parent does not need to stay)

Fee per child per session: \$7M;\$10NM or Fee per series: \$23M;\$40NM

Experience nature by becoming part of it. In this yoga inspired series taught by naturalist/yoga instructor Allison Jackson, children will explore nature through creative movement, activities and games. Wear comfortable clothing for moving outdoors. Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle.

JUNE 19

Boy Scouts of America ‘Insect Study’ Merit Badge

*Saturday, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Boy Scouts 11 years and older,
Fee: \$15 per scout*

Join Education Director/BSA Merit Badge Counselor Jeff Hoagland for this half-day workshop, designed to help Boy Scouts earn the Insect Study merit badge.

Tiny Tot Walks

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

10:00–11:00AM: Fee per child: \$7M/\$10NM

Join Pam Newitt on an outdoor adventure with your budding naturalist as she leads toddlers on explorations of the natural world

MARCH 19

APRIL 20

MAY 17

JUNE 11



Spring Break Mini-Camps

Our popular School Spring Break Mini-Camps are back—bigger and better for 2010! This year will find our Teacher-Naturalists leading outdoor explorations at the Lawrence Nature Center as well as on our Reserve in Pennington. You may register your children for as many days as you want or need. Sessions will be conducted outdoors so children must come dressed for early spring weather, which means coats, hats, gloves and boots. Bring your lunch daily and share a story and a s'more with us around an afternoon campfire. Advance registration is required—sorry, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Payment is due at time of registration.

MARCH 29–APRIL 2

Spring Break Mini-Camp at Lawrence Nature Center in Drexel Woods

Children 6–12 years old, 9:30 AM–4 PM, no extended day available

Fee per day per child: \$50

Our Teacher-Naturalists will introduce the wonders of the Lawrence Nature Center trails, stream and meadow to your child with a week of outdoor fun and exploration. This program does not meet at the Watershed Reserve in Pennington.

APRIL 2, 5–9

Spring Break Mini-Camp on the Reserve

Children 6–12 years old, 9:30 AM–4 PM, Extended day available 8:30 AM–5:30 PM at extra cost, Fee per day per child: \$50M/\$65NM, Extended day fee: \$15 per day per child

Join our Teacher/Naturalists on the Watershed Reserve for a different outdoor theme for each day. Of course, you can still count on the great Watershed activities such as a walk to the pond or the stream, shelter building, hiking and campfires with a marshmallow roast.

Spring 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: \$10M/\$15NM or Fee per series: \$35M/\$60NM

There are 2 four-week spring series; register for one or both series, or sessions individually.

Series I (4 weeks)

APRIL 13 & 14

Mammal Animals

What do a whale, a big brown bat and your pet hamsters have in common? They're all mammals! In this program, children will touch and feel their way through the world of mammals.

APRIL 20 & 21

Squirrels

We'll learn about gray, red and flying squirrels, search for their homes and food, and make a bushy-tailed craft to take home.

APRIL 27 & 28

Wonders of Waterfowl

Waddle on over to the Watershed Reserve pond to learn more about web-footed creatures and search for their signs. Drop off and pick up is at the Pond House on Wargo Road, not the Buttinger Nature Center.

MAY 4 & 5

Down and Dirty

Come and get the dirt on dirt! We'll explore the nature of soil, feel different types of soil and look for the plants and animals that rely on this incredible creation.



Series II (4 weeks)

MAY 18 & 19

Are You My Mother?

You know why your mother is so special, come and explore the Watershed Reserve and find out what makes the animal and insect mothers so special too.

MAY 25 & 26

Spring Green!!!

Wear green clothing and come join us on a walk though the trails discovering all the colors found in nature, especially the color GREEN! We will create a green craft at the end of the walk.

JUNE 1 & 2

Nature's Symphony

Stop, look, and LISTEN to the world around you. We will take a hike and learn about the natural world through the song of birds, the rustle of the wind, and sounds made by other animals. After our hike, we will make a musical craft.

JUNE 8 & 9

Mighty Trees

Have you hugged a tree this spring? Let's discover how trees function, how they help wildlife and how special they are. Befriend a Maple tree today, and make a tree craft to take home.



Spring School-age Series

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

Thursdays, 4–5:30 PM

\$12M/\$17NM per session; \$43M/\$68NM per series

There are 2 four-week spring series; register for one or both series, or sessions individually.

Series I (4 weeks)

APRIL 15

Critter Camouflage

Come explore the ways in which animals use camouflage! Search for hidden animals, play a game called camouflage, and make your own camouflage cape to take home.

APRIL 22

Earth Day Celebration

Put on your party hat! Make a natural hat and celebrate with games and a hike as we gain a deeper appreciation for all that nature provides!

APRIL 29

Slimy Salamanders

Where does a salamander sleep? We will learn all about frogs, toads, and salamanders as we roam the Reserve. Make a toad home for your toad neighbors!

MAY 6

Spring Flowers

What's so special about flowers? Find out as we plant some seeds to take home and some for the butterflies. Shhhh ... we will even make a special gift for mom for Mother's Day.

Series II (4 weeks)

MAY 20

Birds, Nests, and Babies

It's that time of year—spring! Birds are building their nests and laying eggs. Soon new babies will be fledging the nests too. Search for birds and try to build your own nest!

MAY 27

Recycled Trees

Papermaking, that is! Take a hike while learning about the wonders of trees and the importance of recycling. Collect materials to make your own paper to take home!

JUNE 3

Weather Wonders

April showers, may flowers... what does June bring? Late spring is special for weather. Learn how weather affects critters on the Watershed Reserve, play games and make a weather craft!

JUNE 10

Step Into The Garden

Visit our butterfly garden, rain garden, and some of nature's gardens too! Then gather natural materials to make a garden ornament to take home!

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Hopewell Township	Robbinsville
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Manalapan	Roosevelt
Manville	South Brunswick
Millstone Borough	West Amwell
Millstone Township	West Windsor

The Watershed Association is a proud sponsor of:



Saturday, March 20, 2010
10AM-4PM

GREEN EVERYTHING will feature exhibitors and presenters on
green building
green home management
green landscaping
green eating
green shopping
green small-business management
and more...

Be sure to join us at the James Kerney Center
of Mercer County College
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Admission is free!

Visit www.sustainablelawrence.org to learn more.

✉ 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

For more information visit: www.thewatershed.org


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Nature & Environmental Summer Day Camp Open House

Saturday, March 20 • 1–4 PM

Families (children entering grades 1–9) • **FREE**

Talk with the Camp Director, explore the Buttinger Nature Center, walk our trails and register for summer camp! Can't make it March 20? No problem ... EVERY DAY is an 'Open House' at the Buttinger Nature Center. Stop by Monday-Saturday to register for summer camp. Visit www.thewatershed.org for complete summer camp info!

