

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

WELLSPRING

Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

Harry's Brook Taking Action on Storm Water



Princeton, NJ

Nine years ago, Fred Bowers moved to a neighborhood on the east side of Princeton near Harry's Brook, which he describes as "a jewel in the middle of suburbia." It wasn't long before he realized the downside to living near such a jewel. "After a severe storm, I noticed a stream of water about two or three inches deep flowing from my



neighbor's property above, and running like a river toward my basement," he recalls. Although his neighbor's property is elevated a mere four inches above his, it was enough to cause potential damage to his basement, as well as to the homes of neighbors below his.

To address the related problems of flooding and polluted runoff, the Watershed Association has launched a "Harry's Brook Citizens Stormwater Initiative." The project has been supported by grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey American Water and Conservation Resources Inc. and the efforts of Daniel Fletcher and Sophie Tyack, two Watershed Association interns from Princeton University's Princeton Environmental Institute.

The Harry's Brook Watershed ranges from the relatively undeveloped Princeton Ridge region in northern Princeton south through the Princeton Shopping Center, downtown Princeton, and surrounding residential areas. The brook itself flows into Lake Carnegie near the finish line of Princeton University's crew races near Shady Brook Lane. For many

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pass It On Campaign Needs You!

\$6.4 million and counting. As of this writing, that is the extraordinary tally of gifts and pledges that have been generously donated to the Watershed's Pass It On campaign to transform our campus on the 930-acre Watershed Reserve into an innovative teaching model of sustainable living.

Our bold new environment center, designed to attain LEED-Platinum certification and to be energy neutral, will model sustainable technologies and smart strategies to conserve energy and water and restore environmental processes. The campaign's essential goal is to advance the Watershed Association's effectiveness and capacity to change public mindsets, behaviors, and policies to protect our shared natural resources. We seek to impact the critical decisions of civil engineers, building contractors, municipal leaders, homeowners and others that collectively determine the state of our environment.

The new center will serve as the central hub of the organization's programs and activities, providing classrooms, halls for interactive exhibits, a laboratory, computer learning center,

conference rooms, and staff offices. The center will be served by photovoltaic (solar) panels to generate electricity, geothermal heating and cooling, an innovative system to treat human wastewater with constructed wetlands, a series of "rain gardens" to manage stormwater, and a host of other technologies.

In the coming months and years, education and advocacy of the systems deployed at our campus to address environmental problems will become a core component of our programming (see our Harry's Brook cover story about stormwater runoff).

I am extremely grateful for the generosity of so many people and institutions who have already contributed to this campaign. More than 120 individuals, foundations and businesses have donated to the campaign, putting us ever closer to the \$7.5 million total necessary to construct the myriad of planned upgrades to our campus.



Please join the growing ranks of dedicated people who are investing in our campaign and our collective future.

Patrick Amaral and Kathy Schulte
Bill and Blair Ayers
The Baldwin Foundation
Mary and Jon Baum
The Bay Branch Foundation
Nancy Beck
Behr Charitable Foundation
Wendy Benchley
Miguel and Jacklyn Bezos
Kathleen and Jay Biggins
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
Mary Owen Borden
Memorial Foundation
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Ted and Barbie Bromley
Elizabeth Bromley and Dougin Walker
Frances Brooks
Mrs. Alexander K. Buck
The Bunbury Company
Bill Carmean and Nancy Ross
Victory and Ted Chase
Lori and Neil Citrone
John and Melanie Clarke
Elliot Cohen
Barbie and Chris Cole
The Edward T. Cone Foundation
Robert and Mary Ellen Darretta
Daniel and Tracy Dart
Sweep and Brenda Davis
Anna Drago
Lindy and Zvi Eiref
Karen and John Ellis

P.J. Elvington
Jon and Liz Erickson
Wendy and Larry Evans
Michael Farewell
Marylou Millard Ferrara
Dr. John W. and Alison Flemer Family
Betty and Robert Fleming
William and Anne Gates
Alix Gerry
Peter and Margie Gibson
Ann A. Gips
Sophie and Curtis Glovier
Goldman Sachs Gives
Meg and Tom Gorrie
The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation
The Leita and William Hamill
Family Foundation, Inc.
Patricia Haneline and Alan Kozikowski
Alex and Laura Hanson CGF, Inc.
Mrs. Eugene Haring
Robert and Stephanie Harris
Tom and Archer Harvey
Katie and John Heins
Cynthia and Robert Hillas
Michael and Carol Hollander
Sarah and Lincoln Hollister
The Honorable Rush Holt and
Margaret Lancefield
Jeaninne and Robert Honstein
Elizabeth B. Hoover
Henry and Elizabeth Horn
Dinni and Alex Jain

Betty Wold Johnson
Hallet and Maryellen Johnson
Marc and Joyce Johnson
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Johnston
Claude and Laurie Jones
Molly and Bill Jones
Louisa G. Lambert (dec.)
Sam and Casey Lambert
Mary and Charles Leck
Dr. Richard Levandowski and
Ms. Kris Deni
David and Cathy Loevner
Christine Lokhammer
Annarie Lyles and Andy Dobson
Wendy L. Mager and Eric Monberg
David Mathey Foundation
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Brian and Leah McDonald
The Curtis Webster McGraw Foundation
Karla Miller
G. Nicholas Miller
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Dottie and Mel Myers
The New-Land Foundation, Inc.
Nelson Obus and Eve Coulson
Oye and Judy Olukotun
Tom and Kate O'Neill
Kim and Loraine Otis
Scot Pannepacker and Heidi Wilenius
The Albert Penick Fund
Tod and Betsy Peyton

Pheasant Hill Foundation
PNC Foundation
Candace and Marvin Preston
Ingrid and Marvin Reed, Jr.
Amy and Jay Regan
Jeffrey and Betsy Sands
Jamie Kyte Sapoch and John Sapoch
Lorraine A. Sciarra
Inez and Richard Scribner
Ed and Tracy Shehab
Margaret Seick and Robert Baldwin, Jr.
Grace and Frank Sinden
Winifred and Fredric Spar
Mara Connolly Taft and Pete Taft
The Margaret L. Thomas Memorial Fund
Claire Higham and Rees Thomas
Penny and Ted Thomas
Mrs. Charles C. Townsend, Jr.
Kevin and Ginger Tylus
Carol and Ludwig Umscheid
Jim and Nancy Utaski
Anne Van Lent
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Vaughn, III
Jay and Harriet Vawter
Happy and Jack Wallace
Alicia and Jim Waltman
Anne P. Weiland and Todd D. Gustafson
Lytisha Williams and Dr. Chris Fisher
Myra and Van Zandt Williams, Jr.
Robert Wilson
The Winslow Foundation
Robert and Barbara Wolfe

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKERS

The Watershed Lecture Series



Author Thomas Belton



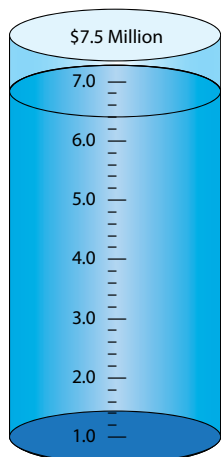
Dr. Richard Ostfeld

In addition to learning about the bold and innovative design of our upcoming LEED-Platinum environmental center, gatherings for the Pass It On Campaign have been enhanced by thought provoking environmental speakers, thanks to The Watershed 2012 Lecture Series. Pennington residents Holly and Chris Schade hosted an evening lecture with scientist/poet/colorful author Thomas Belton presenting *Our Water: Think Before You Drink!* Mr. Belton is a scientist with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and his book, *Protecting New Jersey's Environment, from Cancer Alley to the New Garden State*, has been named a 2010 Honor Book by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Members of local garden clubs got to enjoy a luncheon and highly entertaining and practical presentation at the Princeton home of Sue and Charles Plambeck. Dr. Richard S. Ostfeld, Disease Ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, discussed how habitat protection and landscaping can protect your family from Lyme disease and other illnesses. Dr. Ostfeld's research has focused on interactions among organisms that influence the risk of human exposure to vector-borne diseases. Compostable luncheon ware was donated for the event by Mr. Rob Thomas of the Camden Bag and Paper Company.



Be a Rainmaker. Help us fill our rain gauge!



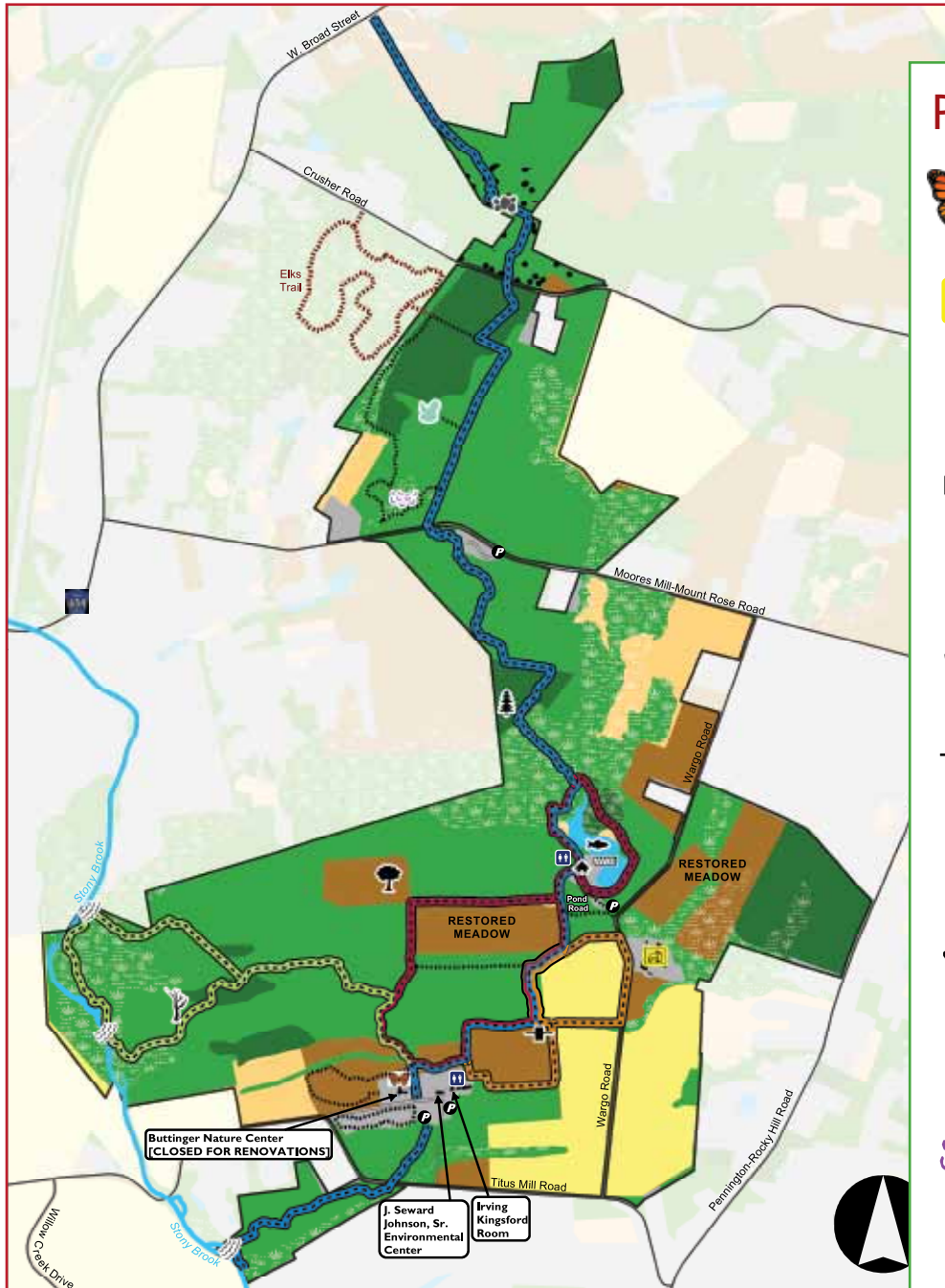
The Pass It On campaign has made significant progress in the last 3 months thanks to so many of our committed members. We are proud to report that we have raised \$6.4 million, and are now striving to reach the goal of \$7.5 million needed to fund the building and related campus improvements. Please be a part of this investment in the future of the environment in this area. No gift is too small. Please donate today—online, by mail, or phone. Please specify that you would like your tax-deductible gift dedicated to the **Pass It On** campaign.
















Brian Rosener, new manager of Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, presents a donation to the Pass It On Campaign

OUR NEW TRAILS

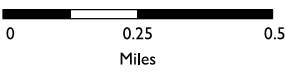
Trails on the Watershed Reserve






















- ### Points of Interest
-  **Kate Gorrie Butterfly House**
 -  **Honey Brook Organic Farm Stand**
 -  **Pond House**
 -  **Hildick-Smith Dock**
 -  **Wargo Pond**
 -  **Big Boulder**
 -  **Haiku Station**
 -  **Hobbit Tree**
 -  **Lonely Tree**
 -  **Red Pine Grove**
 -  **Skunk Cabbage Hollow**
 -  **Stony Brook Access**
 -  **Vernal Pool**



Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Assoc.
 31 Titus Mill Rd, Pennington, NJ 08534
www.thewatershed.org



- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|---|
|  Watershed Trail | One Way: 3.45 miles |  Deciduous Forest |  Farm |
|  Meadow-Pond Trail | Round Trip: 2 miles |  Coniferous Forest |  Meadow |
|  Stony Brook Trail | Round Trip: 2 miles |  Old Field |  Lawn |
|  Farm Trail | Round Trip: 1.25 miles |  Wetland |  Water |
|  Other Trail | |  Boulder Field |  Watershed Reserve |
|  FOHVS Trail | |  Parking Lot |  Building |
| | |  Restroom | |

ON THE WATERSHED

Trail Blazing... Trail Gazing



Amy Weaver on the new bog bridge

Staff and volunteers have been working diligently to improve the condition of our trails. We have added a mile to our trail network to link the northern and southern trails of the Watershed Reserve and to create a continuous three and a half mile trail. The new "Watershed Trail" includes 700 feet of new "bog bridges" to cross the often muddy terrain.

The Stony Brook and new

Meadow/Pond trails were also cleared and improved this summer. Special thanks to our friends from Bloomberg,



The Meadow-Pond Trail

ETS, Janssen, and Novo Nordisk, and the Princeton Methodist Church Youth Group for their hard work during record-breaking temperatures. Thanks also go out to our conservation crew, Facility Manager Matt Thompson, Amy Weaver and Nick Webster who labored all summer to beautify our trails.

Come see for yourself! Our new trail maps can be found online and outside the main office.



Matt Thompson and Nick Webster on the Stony Brook Trail

What You'll See Along the Way



Farm Trail

The Watershed Trail

See the historic Drake farmstead with its unique windmill on your way to the organic farm.

Meadow/Pond Trail

Hike past fields of native grasses and wildflowers to Wargo Pond and fish from our floating dock. On your way, stop by the Haiku station and compose a poem about nature.

Stony Brook Trail

Explore mature forest filled with stately oaks, hickories and sycamore trees on your way to Stony Brook. Look for the grand and gnarled "Hobbit Tree", a mature beech named by children attending the Watershed Nature camp years ago.

Watershed Trail

Hike up and over the rocky Mount Rose Ridge, the western extension of the Princeton Ridge. Climb the big boulder for a rest before heading back along this three and-a-half mile trail.

OUTREACH

Watershed Working for the Community



Princeton Young Achievers program

This past summer, the Kate Gorrie Butterfly House displayed its charms to many groups in the community including the women and children who are clients of Woman-space and special needs adults and their caregivers from *Allies*.



Princeton Young Achievers create watercolors during the Watershed's after-school program



Education Director Jeff Hoagland with children from Every Child Valued Program

Last June, Jeff Hoagland conducted his much-anticipated annual hike on Chauncy Trail at ETS for the underserved Lawrenceville children in the *Every Child Valued* program.

The Watershed Association is providing after-school environmental enrichment programming for students residing at the Princeton Community Village, in the heart of the Princeton Ridge and within the headwaters of Harry's Brook. The pre-K to 5th graders participate in a program called "Forest Full of Language", where they write poetry based on outdoor explorations. The programming was launched in partnership

with Princeton Young Achievers with funds provided by the Princeton University Class of 1986. The program is currently delivered in partnership with the Princeton YMCA.

Toolbox Troubles!

Groups of corporate volunteers have been building hundreds of feet of bog bridges to improve the trails on our Reserve and our Watershed tools have worn out! If you can donate any of the items below in good working order, please email ahanft@thewatershed.org.

- Circular saw with 18v lithium ion battery and charger
- Drills with 18V Lithium battery and ion charger
- Regular circular saw and working drills of any kind



Join the Watershed Conservation Crew

We are looking for hearty volunteers to help us maintain the trails and grounds on our 930-acre Watershed Reserve. Contact Matt Thompson at 609-737-3735 ext. 21, or mthompson@thewatershed.org.

BEAT THE HEAT

Summer Memories at the Watershed

The record heat this summer did not hinder events at the Watershed. The Annual members and volunteers picnic kicked off our summer of fun. Our Watershed Nature Camp attendees were eager to explore nature and learn about shelter-building, solar energy and stream creatures. The Fairy Festival entranced our youngest friends, who were introduced to the magic of nature. This year's Butterfly Festival was the best yet, with new activities and the beauty of the Kate Gorrie Butterfly House. Great music and food added to this wonderful family event, which has become a summer staple in our watershed community.



Watershed Nature Day Camp



Fairy Festival



Volunteer Picnic



Butterfly Festival

Fall 2012 Calendar

Space is limited in all programs.
Call 609-737-7592 to register.

All programs meet at Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Reserve, 31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, unless stated otherwise.

Payment methods: Cash, Check, VISA, MasterCard or Discover

Fee code: M=Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Member, NM=Non-member

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.

All returned checks incur a bank fee.

Watershed membership is not refundable.

*** Event co-sponsors include:**

Washington Crossing Audubon,
Friends of Princeton Open Space and
Arts Council of Princeton

Family and Adult Programs

Registration required for all programs

SEPTEMBER 14

Creepy Spider Night Hunt

Friday, 7:30–9:00PM, Families (children 5yo+),
Fee per person: \$8M/\$12NM

Join Education Director Jeff Hoagland for our annual night hunt on the trails of the Watershed Reserve, in search for all different spiders. Please bring a flashlight.

SEPTEMBER 15

Marvelous Mosses

Saturday, 10:00–11:30AM, Families (children 5yo+),
Fee per person: \$5M/\$8NM

Have you ever really looked carefully at moss? Come along with Naturalist Anna Leiss to explore the microscopic world of these amazing tiny plants and learn how to incorporate them into your garden!

SEPTEMBER 22

Go, go grasshopper*

Saturday, 11:00AM–12:30PM, Families (children 5yo+);
\$5 per person

Come out into the fields with Naturalist Allison Jackson to catch grasshoppers and other insects. Learn all you can about these happy, hoppy creatures. Nets provided.

SEPTEMBER 22

'Back to Camp' Reunion

Saturday, 1:00–3:00PM, Summer Campers and their Families, FREE

Bring your family back to camp for an afternoon! Meet up with friends and see your counselors again when you visit the Stony Brook, build shelters in the woods or visit our animals! Bring a snack and water bottle. Just like camp, it's rain or shine so dress for the weather! RSVP requested.

SEPTEMBER 29

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, 9:00AM–12:00PM, Adults and Families (children 12yo+); FREE

NPLD is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands. Join us this morning for some 'get your hands dirty' work on the trails. RSVP requested.



SEPTEMBER 29

Back into the Night—Nocturnal Geocache Event

Saturday, 8:00PM; Adults only, \$10 per person

Enjoy the fun of nocturnal geocaching! Use your GPS unit and flashlight to navigate our trails through the night. End up at our rendezvous site for a campfire and delicious fall refreshments.

OCTOBER 6

Tree Time

Saturday, 10:00–11:30AM, Families and Adults,
Fee per person: \$5M/\$8NM

With their showy display of color, trees are vying for our attention at this time of year! Go out on a limb with Naturalist Peggy Hash and learn to identify some of our native trees.

OCTOBER 20

Explore Princeton Institute Woods with Dr. Henry Horn*

Saturday, 9:00AM–12:00PM, Adults only, \$5 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. Meeting place to be determined. This hike does not meet on the Watershed Reserve in Pennington.

OCTOBER 20

Nature of the Night Halloween Hike

Saturday, 7:00–9:00PM, Families, Fee per family: \$15M/\$20NM

Join this family-friendly and *non-scary* night hike on the Watershed Reserve to explore the ecology of night and magic of Halloween. Suitable for children 4–10 years old. We will finish at a campfire in the woods with refreshments and seasonal stories.

OCTOBER 27

Autumn Trail Hike—Wargo Pond to Mt. Rose and Back!

Saturday, 9:30AM–12:30PM; Adults and Families (children 10yo+); Fee per person: \$5M/\$8NM

Celebrate the season with Naturalist Tammy Love on a morning hike of the Watershed trails. Originating at the Pond House on Wargo Road, she will lead you onto our newest trails, to the peak of the Mt. Rose Trail and back again to Wargo Pond. Wear comfortable shoes/hiking boots, dress for the weather, bring water bottles.

NOVEMBER 3

Papermaking in the Watershed Woods*

Saturday, 10:00AM–2:30PM, Adults and Teen 16yo+, Fee per person: \$40M/\$50NM

The Watershed Reserve will serve as inspiration for this handmade papermaking session. Arts Council of Princeton instructor Kathleen Metaxas will teach students how to make paper with alpaca and cotton fibers combined with plant materials collected from the Watershed Reserve. \$10 materials fee payable to instructor on day of event. Register directly at artscouncilofprinceton.org.

NOVEMBER 3

Fall into Autumn*

Saturday, 10:00AM–12:00PM, Adults and Families(children 6 yo+), \$5 per person

Join this walk at the Mountain Lakes Preserve in Princeton to take a peek into the annual climax of the wild lives of wildlife before the big freeze!

NOVEMBER 17

Skills in Nature: Creating Cordage*

Saturday, 10:00AM–12:00PM; Adults and Families (children 10yo+), \$5 per person

Join Naturalist Anna Leiss for a hands-on lesson in how to make cordage from dogbane, a common New Jersey wildflower found in our fields.

NOVEMBER 17

Native American Storytelling & Campfire

Saturday, 7:00–8:30PM; Families (children 5yo+); Fee per family: \$12M/\$18NM

Join us for a special nocturnal program featuring Native American stories told around a campfire, with a marshmallow roast. This program does not have a hike and meets at the Pond House on Wargo Road.



DECEMBER 1

Winter Bird Walk*

Saturday, 9:00–11:00AM, Adults and older teens,
\$5 per person

Join Education Director Jeff Hoagland on a hike of the Watershed Reserve in search of wintering birds. Bring binoculars and dress for possibly muddy walking conditions.

Children's Programs

Registration required for all programs

Nature & Ecology Afterschool Enrichment Classes with the Teacher-Naturalists!

Monday & Tuesday 3:30–5:00PM,
Hopewell & Toll Gate Schools

Tuesday 4:00–5:30PM, Watershed Reserve,
Children grades K–5, \$50 per 4-week session

Enrollment is open NOW in weekly afterschool classes for children in Kindergarten through grade 5. Boys and girls will enjoy outdoor explorations of the natural world and learn about the local ecology. Our activities are conducted out-of-doors and are totally hands-on and experiential. Some of the activities we are planning for this year include owl pellet dissections, exploring insect life, making plaster casts of animal tracks and participating in citizen science projects. Classes are held immediately after school at Hopewell Elementary School and Toll Gate Grammar School, on Monday and Tuesday respectively. Classes will also be held at the Watershed Reserve on Tuesday afternoons, for children who do not attend either of those elementary schools. The fee for a 4-week session is \$50.00 per child; sibling and full-year payment discounts are available. Registration is required and space in all of the classes is limited. Please call the Education Department, 609-737-7592, or visit our website, www.thewatershed.org, for more information and to download the registration form.

NOVEMBER 8 & 9

Autumn Adventure Mini-Camp

Thursday and Friday, 9:30AM–4:00PM each day
(extended care available at extra fee)

Children 6–12 years old; Fee per day per child:
\$60M/\$75NM; sibling and 2-day discounts available

Spend the November public school break at the Watershed Reserve with the Naturalists. Outdoor autumn activities will focus on the turning of the seasons and may include trail explorations, shelter building, or a pond exploration. Enjoy a campfire each afternoon with a marshmallow roast. Sign up for one day or both!

DECEMBER 1

Holiday Hike and Singalong

Saturday, 11:00AM, Families, FREE

Join us in the Kingsford Room for a celebration of the season. Enjoy the warmth of a holiday fire, sing carols, and explore the winter wonderland with Education Director Jeff Hoagland. Hot chocolate and cider will be served.



Fall Preschool Programs

Tuesdays 10:00–11:30AM or Wednesdays, 1:00–2:30PM

Children 3–5 years old, parent must stay with child younger than 4. Register for entire series or single classes. Fee per class per child: \$10M/\$15NM; register and pay for 4 classes, receive 5th class free. Children should dress for the weather.

SEPTEMBER 4 & 5—SPIKES, SPINES & STINGERS

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12—AIR UP THERE

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19—APPLES ABOUND

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26—GRASSHOPPERS & CRICKETS

OCTOBER 23 & 24—ROCKIN' INTO ROCK-TOBER

OCTOBER 30 & 31—HALLOWEEN BLACK

NOVEMBER 6 & 7—FOREST IN AUTUMN

NOVEMBER 13 & 14—MISSION: DECOMPOSITION

NOVEMBER 20 & 21—ANIMAL SUPERHEROES

NOVEMBER 27 & 28—FANCY FEATHERS

DECEMBER 4 & 5—WHERE DO THEY GO?

DECEMBER 11 & 12—EVERGREENS FOR EVERYONE

**SEPTEMBER 13, OCTOBER 22,
NOVEMBER 19, DECEMBER 19**

Tiny Tot Walk

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

Children 18–36 months, all children must be walking and accompanied by an adult.

You and your 'budding naturalist' are invited to join us on any or all of these monthly outdoor explorations of the natural world. Children and adults should dress for the weather.

SPEAKING OF NATURE

Attentive Heart

by Jeff Hoagland

Fall is rolling in again—I know because, like you, I pay attention to these things. The swing of the seasons is changing a bit these days but our calendars keep us on track even if the external cues don't. A year ago it snowed right around Halloween and then winter beat a hasty retreat. Spring came early and seemed to give a head start to just about every plant and animal around. Exactly how this season progresses remains a mystery at this moment, but we will find out soon enough. If we pay attention.

Paying attention is something we are supposed to do, right? It is really just an innate human trait—one that protects us or rewards us in innumerable ways. “Pay attention while you're driving” seems like basic yet important advice. Long ago our earliest ancestors had very different reasons to pay attention—“Watch out for the mountain lion.” Even today, if we pay attention to the cycles of nature or the natural world in general, we still reap rewards.

The rewards may be simple reminders of our place on this planet. Maybe you love to sleep with the window open—a little night music with the fresh air. In my neighborhood that means concertos of crickets in the spring, the playful banter of the gray tree frogs in early summer and the lonely calls of screech owls drifting through my window on autumn air. I'll go out to meet the owl, in the darkness, and seek him out or maybe lure him in with some conversation. My imitation of the screech owl call may not be perfect but the reward is—an intimate encounter with another being—a curious screech owl.

Are you paying attention to the natural world around you? More than just being observant or aware, are you attentive to nature? Attentive connotes mindfulness, even a strong sense of connection. Being truly attentive involves the heart.

The Babicki family, friends of the Watershed Association, seem to embrace this notion. Laurie Babicki brought her daughters Anastasia and Alexandra to preschool programs, summer camp, and many other Watershed events. The girls became “Critter Care” volunteers at the Nature Center and regularly graced the teacher naturalists with their stories of wonder in the natural world. This year, Anastasia partici-



Anastasia Babicki

ated in camp once again, but this time as a Counselor-in-Training.

One of Anastasia's earliest memories of the natural world was a close encounter with a toad. You know toads, those brownish, warty versions of frogs that inhabit the land. For whatever reason—a sense of wonder and curiosity, or dreams of Prince Charming—this encounter stuck, and deepened her sense of appreciation of the natural world. Attentive heart.

This encounter may have been here at the Watershed or at home. Certainly toad encounters on the Watershed Reserve are not uncommon but it seems that the Babicki habitat, the yard outside their home, is ideal for frogs and toads as well. The girls' father Paul remembers catching frogs as he grew up. He enjoyed sharing this same experience with his children from their earliest years. Together they raised tadpoles right under their own roof.

Each season brings its charms to this world. I will seek the soft light of the glowworm lamp along our trails before the first frost. I will watch the birds gorging before they parade in flight to more promising habitats south. I will chronicle the colors that emerge on the trees in my yard, at my work, and everywhere I go. And when those leaves fall, I will rake them up, not for a sense of law and order, but for a celebration of the season. I will join my children as they leap over and over into this pile of leaves, giggles and laughter flying. I know that somewhere, Anastasia and her family will be doing the same thing. Being attentive can cause more than the heart to leap.

Harry's Brook

continued from page 1

residents of the area, Harry's Brook is merely a beautiful aspect of their neighborhood—the shady, peaceful streams meandering through the landscape provide a pleasant sight, especially during the hot Princeton summer. However, for those living directly on Harry's Brook, it can also pose great difficulties—all it takes is a night of rain for their backyards to become ponds and their basements to become flooded.

This watershed is a prime example of an area that was developed before the enactment of regulations to manage stormwater runoff. Much of the watershed is urbanized and much of the land there is covered with driveways, rooftops, roadways and other surfaces that are impermeable to water. As a result, precipitation runs over the landscape rapidly rather than soaking into the land and recharging the groundwater aquifer, as it would in a natural setting. Water flowing over developed landscapes tends to pick up sediment, oils, and other pollutants on its way to storm drains and ultimately our streams. Urban growth therefore can create flooding, reduce the replenishment of aquifers and lead to water pollution if not managed appropriately.

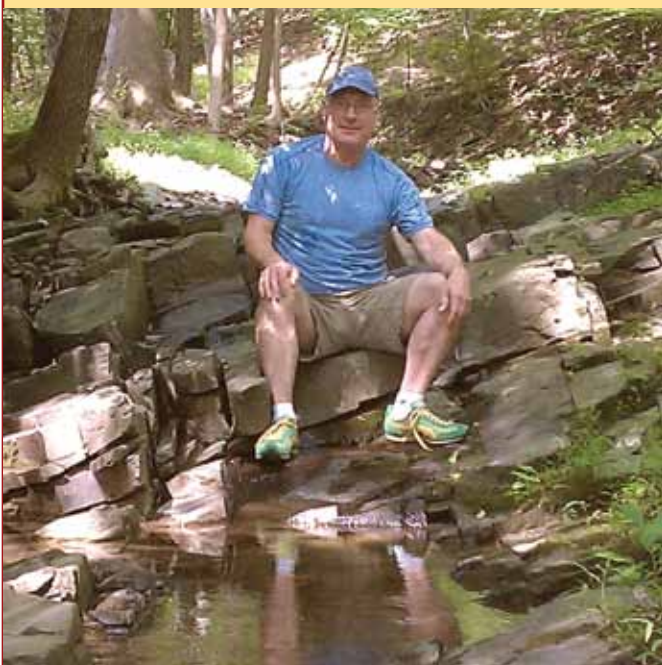
During the summer of 2011, Watershed intern and Princeton University engineering student Daniel Fletcher investigated stormwater runoff in Harry's Brook and developed a model

to determine the extent to which various small scale stormwater management practices could reduce stormwater flow and improve water quality.

This past summer, Watershed intern Sophie Tyack helped us launch the Harry's Brook Citizen Stormwater Initiative, which aims to reduce runoff and pollution by working with residents, small businesses, and municipal officials in the Harry's Brook watershed. For example, installing and properly maintaining rain barrels can save up to 1,300 gallons of water in peak summer months and help to reduce runoff from rooftops. By installing a rain garden—a garden of water-loving native plants that is planted in a slight depression—residents and businesses can treat and recharge around 25,000 gallons of water per year. The initial goal is to reduce run-off by 5%.

Fred Bowers and other residents have taken direct action to help address the stormwater runoff problems in the Harry's Brook Watershed (see below) and you can too! For more information about the project and other things you can do to help, contact Dr. Amy Soli, the Watershed Association's science director at asoli@thewatershed.org or visit us at www.thewatershed.org.

Harry's Brook Hero Fred Bowers



Fred Bowers is on a mission. Bowers, who holds a Ph.D. in Forest Soils from the University of Washington and an MS in Soils and Agronomy from Rutgers University, is committed to finding ways to channel and retain stormwater on his property, so that it can be absorbed safely into the ground, without damage to his or his neighbor's basements.

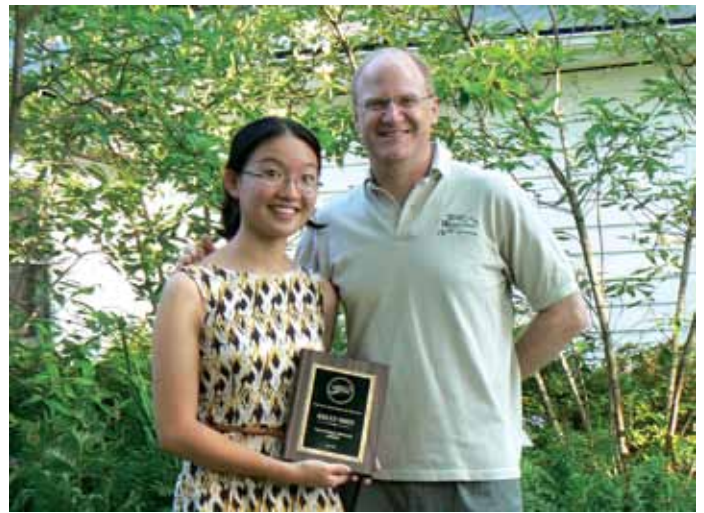
Bowers has employed a number of strategies, including rain gardens and dry wells. "To me, it's all about holding the water back. Trees rely on it, everything relies on it, and if it runs straight off to the storm drains, there is no chance for the groundwater to be replenished."

"Watersheds are like neighborhoods, and join us as neighbors," claims Bowers. "If I do something about stormwater, and everyone affected does something about it, together we can reduce flooding on Harry's Brook."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kelly Shen

Kelly Shen was presented the Volunteer of the Year award at the annual Members and Volunteers summer picnic. Kelly has been a volunteering since 2008, when she started as a Counselor-in-Training for the Watershed Nature Camp. Over the years she has participated in the StreamWatch chemical action team, where she monitored the Bedens Brook in Montgomery Township, and was always eager to assist with other Watershed Science projects. She also volunteered with our annual stream clean-up events and at our Butterfly Festival in the kid zone. Kelly is currently attending Duke University as a freshman. We wish Kelly the best of luck in all her future endeavors!



Volunteer of the year award winner Kelly Shen with Executive Director Jim Waltman

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Two Dagger Axis 12' kayaks
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Raffle prize generously sponsored by **Blue Ridge Mountain Sports**—Princeton Shopping Center
Drawing will take place during the Watershed FEST on October 13th, 2012.
Attendance not required to win. NJ Raffle license # RL 12-12

WATERSHED UPDATES

The Watershed: Working for You

Watershed Advocacy Working for You

In a combined effort with other environmental agencies, our advocacy team of Jennifer Coffey and Joan McGee secured three important victories over the past summer. First, The Hopewell Township Committee adopted a strong new Woodlands Protection Ordinance that strictly regulates the removal of large trees. Second, Hightstown has adopted a terrific new Stormwater Ordinance to help mitigate chronic flooding and third, Gibraltar Rock, the company that now owns the former 3M quarry in Montgomery and Hillsborough in the Sourlands, has withdrawn its proposal for a large solar panel array that would have entailed clear-cutting 20 acres of mature forest.

(See more on these issues and others on our Advocacy page at www.thewatershed.org).

Watershed Science Working for You

We continue to move forward on efforts to remove the Blackwells Mills and Weston Causeway Dams on the Millstone River. After three years of intensive study, The Watershed has identified the tributary that contributes substantially to bacterial contamination that periodically plagues Hightstown's Peddie Lake, making it unsafe to swim there after it rains. We are now working to identify the exact source(s) of pathogens to that tributary. In addition, we are working with Princeton residents of the Harry's Brook Watershed to employ practices to address stormwater runoff and flooding.

(See more on these issues and others on our Science page at www.thewatershed.org).



2012: Watershed FES THE YEAR OF THE WATER DRAGON Saturday, October 13, 2012

At six-thirty in the evening on the Watershed Reserve

Cocktails • Hors D'oeuvres • Silent Auction • Dinner • Live Auction

Red Tie & Wellies Optional

For ticket information, please visit our website:

thewatershed.org

A benefit to support your local Watershed

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OUR INTERNS

Meet Our Summer Science Stars



Princeton University students Ted Eyster and Sophie Tyack spent the summer interning with Science Director Amy Soli, PhD on two of our key projects.

Sophie helped develop and launch the Harry's Brook Citizen's Stormwater Project (see our cover story on page 1), and played a huge role in the education of community residents and businesses to reduce stormwater runoff. Sophie is from Hanover, Massachusetts and is currently a senior at Princeton University. She majors in Classical Studies with an Environmental Studies certificate.

Ted Eyster helped us identify the source of bacterial contamination in Hightstown's Peddie Lake through painstaking sampling over the course of the summer. Ted hails from Chelsea Michigan, and is completing his civil and environmental engineering degree at Princeton this year.

"Sophie and Ted's dedication and hard work were instrumental in moving these projects forward," said Dr. Soli.

✉ 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: thewatershed.org

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Your Watershed.

The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association has been working to keep central New Jersey's drinking water and recreational water safe and clean since 1949. Our mission is only as strong as our supporting membership. If your membership is up for renewal, please make your tax deductible donation today. If you are not a member, please become a member of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association. **See our website for local discounts for Watershed members.**

Gifts can be made online at www.thewatershed.org or by calling 609-737-3735 ext. 36 or by mail. Thank you for helping to keep this area a great place to live, work and play.

Please consider a bequest to the Watershed as a gift for future generations.