

WELLSPRING

Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

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Upgrades Planned for Reserve

A year and a half after opening the Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science & Education, the Watershed Association has plans for additional improvements to the 930-acre Watershed Reserve.

"Just as our LEED-Platinum Watershed Center is a model for 'green' strategies to conserve and manage water and energy, we want the Watershed Reserve to become a model for healthy, natural habitats and for educational and enjoyable experiences for visitors," said Jim Waltman, the Watershed's Executive Director.

The planned upgrades are in two main categories: enhancements to visitors' experiences at the Reserve and restoration of its natural habitats. Three projects lead the list in the former category.

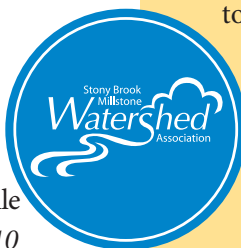
First, the Watershed is constructing a six-foot wide boardwalk that will be accessible to persons with disabilities and parents with children in strollers. The boardwalk, which will eventually form a half-mile

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Sustaining Excellence: Endowment Campaign to Strengthen the Watershed's Efforts

To ensure that the Watershed will continue to provide environmental leadership for generations to come, the organization has launched a new campaign to build an endowment. The endowment will provide a steady supply of funding to support the stewardship of the Watershed Reserve, the maintenance of the Watershed Center as a platform for excellence, and the staff and programs that are the heart of the organization.

Through August, the campaign had raised more than \$2.7 million of the \$4 million goal. New contributions to the endowment will be matched one to one by the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation. The new endowment will supplement the organization's existing \$2 million investment fund that serves as its main cash reserve and also provides an important source of annual funding.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Towns Must Step Up to Counter Lack of State Leadership

New Jersey's environmental leaders have let us down. Under the guise of "cutting red tape," the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has weakened its regulations in a manner that makes it easier to clear vegetation and build new developments near streams and rivers. By doing so, the agency has put homes, businesses and lives in danger and undermined decades of effort to protect clean water and the health and safety of our communities.

The New Jersey Constitution allows our state legislature to veto regulations—or changes to existing regulations—issued by state agencies that it deems to be in conflict with

While we will continue to press the legislature to complete the veto of DEP's action, there are things that towns can and should do to help counter this action.

Fortunately, on many environmental issues, New Jersey's municipalities have the authority to adopt local ordinances that are stronger than DEP's regulations. Many central New Jersey towns have done just that. For example, with the Watershed Association's encouragement and assistance, a dozen municipalities, including Cranbury, Montgomery and West Amwell, have adopted stream corridor protection ordinances that are stronger in some ways than DEP's standards.

Franklin Township and Hightstown have adopted ordinances governing stormwater management that are more robust than DEP's requirements. Hopewell Township and Princeton protect mature trees in a manner that DEP regulations do not.

Although strong leadership from DEP is critical to the health of New Jersey's environment and our communities, municipalities can play an important role. With our state DEP weakening its protections against flooding and sending signals that it intends to weaken other environmental regulations, this is a critical time for municipalities to step into the leadership void and revise their local laws to protect people and the environment.

Helping towns strengthen local environmental protection is a core program at the Watershed Association. For assistance in your town, contact Ed DiFiglia, our Municipal Policy Specialist at edifiglia@thewatershed.org.

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation is a lead funder of our work with municipalities.



(from left): Elliott Ruga of NJ Highlands Coalition, Mike Pisauo of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Dave Pringle from Clean Water Action, Doug O'Malley of Environment NJ, Jennifer Coffey of ANJEC, Debbie Mans with NY/NJ Baykeeper, and Jeff Tittel from NJ Sierra Club spoke at the capitol against the flood hazard rules.

state law. The Watershed Association organized an effort to trigger this multi-step procedure in late 2015 and we cheered when the New Jersey Assembly and New Jersey Senate took the first steps to veto DEP's action.

But unfortunately, rather than completing the veto process, the NJ Senate ultimately dropped the ball and allowed DEP's proposed weakening of the Flood Hazard regulations to take effect.

STREAMWATCH

Headwaters of the Stony Brook

The headwaters of the Stony Brook get their start in a quiet enclave northwest of Hopewell. Large residential lot sizes and protected open space in the Sourland Mountains contribute to the smallest amount of impervious cover of any subwatershed in our region. Just 2.8% of Upper Stony Brook land is impervious, allowing for a more natural water cycle to take hold. Portions of the upper Stony Brook have been

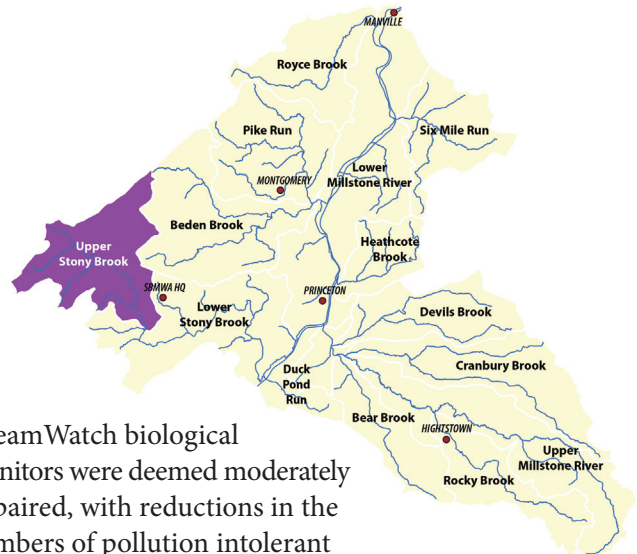


John Witherspoon Middle School students exploring the Upper Stony Brook

designated by NJDEP as “Category One” waters, meaning they have exceptional ecological significance and are afforded enhanced protections including wider riparian buffers.

Despite these extra protections, there are several pollutants affecting water quality in the Upper Stony Brook. Phosphorus, the most frequent pollutant in our watershed, exceeds the 0.1 milligram per liter standard in 37% of StreamWatch sampling events since 2008. Last summer, StreamWatch bacteria testing showed *E. coli* levels over the 235 colonies per 100 milliliter standard half of the time. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) concurs with our assessment and listed *E. coli* as a problem in the Upper Stony Brook in its 2012 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

StreamWatch testing shows acceptable levels of dissolved oxygen (D.O.), however NJDEP staff recorded poor D.O. levels in an area of the Upper Stony Brook not monitored by StreamWatch, knocking its score down to “fairly good.” Phosphorus and D.O. may be affecting macroinvertebrate populations in the region. Most samples taken by



StreamWatch biological monitors were deemed moderately impaired, with reductions in the numbers of pollution intolerant macroinvertebrate species.

Overall, the Upper Stony Brook is in fairly good condition. Maintaining the integrity of the Sourland Mountain region and other protected land is key to protecting these exceptional headwaters.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to StreamWatch volunteers Jonathan Allen, Laura Blinderman, Michelle Colina, Joseph & Matthew Cook, Siddesh Dabholkar, Patricia Douglas, Neil Edwards, Garrett Fondoules, Angie Glander, Claire Higham-Thomas, Richard Kilpatrick, Patti Maslanka, Colleen & Oriane McKee, and Glorianne & Toni Robbi for monitoring the Upper Stony Brook.

The StreamWatch program is funded by Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, RBC Blue Water Project, Colgate Palmolive Company, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

Scorecard

Nitrogen	●
Phosphorus.....	●
Dissolved Oxygen	●
pH	●
Aquatic Life	●
Recreation (<i>E. coli</i>)	●
Impervious Cover	●

Overall Score.....●

Rankings

●=Good ●=Fairly Good ●=Fairly Poor ●=Poor

PDS Earns Certification

The Watershed's River-Friendly School Program recognizes public and private schools for their commitment to environmental education both inside and outside of the classroom. For several years the Watershed Association has worked with local schools to implement water and wildlife-related lessons and projects. Along with updates of this program came great interest, especially from a Princeton school that has already made large strides in sustainability. Princeton Day School (PDS) earned River-Friendly Certification back in 2011 at the Bronze Level (now called "Stream Level"). This spring, PDS went on to earn the highest level of certification, the "Watershed Level", through various water-related, hands-on lessons and projects. These actions earned the school more than 30 points needed for this certification. PDS has also decided to focus on water as a school-wide initiative in the upcoming school year.

This certification involved all grade levels—a total of 900 students—with a focus on the Lower School's 3rd and 4th grades. There were many ongoing, yearly projects and lessons that earned PDS points, including their 4th grade pond study, school-wide composting, and stream cleanups. Working with the Association, they planned and installed a brand new rain garden near their playgrounds and outdoor



classroom to capture stormwater that was running from the parking lot to a storm drain. With the leadership of Lower School Science Teacher, Aaron Schomburg, Princeton Day School has created a robust example of what it means to be River-Friendly.

Acknowledgements

The River-Friendly program is funded by the RBC Blue Water Project, Colgate Palmolive Company, Horizon Foundation, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Leadership through Mentoring

At our annual meeting in April, we had the opportunity to hear from Canaan Bethea, a former Watershed Nature Camp camper and counselor who talked about how his experience at the Watershed inspired him to make a career out of mentoring others.

"I started coming to the Watershed Nature camp when I was 10 years old. The Watershed had a huge impact on my life. After coming here as a camper, and then a counselor, I learned about mentorship and the importance of bringing positive people into your life, and how much of an impact mentorship can have on young people, especially those who may not have the best start in life. As someone growing up in the city, the Watershed Nature Camp gave me a great appreciation for nature, and an understanding of the need to preserve it for future generations."

"I graduated in 2010 from Trenton High School and in 2015 from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in

psychology. I now work as the Assistant Director of Mentoring for Beat the Streets, Philadelphia, a non-profit organization that works with at-risk, underserved youth and gives them the opportunity to participate in athletics and mentoring. The Watershed camp gave me the passion and drive to bring the mentorship experience to others, and I wanted to make that my life's work."

"I enjoyed coming back to visit everyone and see some old friends. As I look around the new Center and everything it has to offer, I know the Watershed Association will continue making a difference in our community and I encourage others to learn about the Watershed and support its work to keep water clean, safe and healthy in New Jersey."



Fall 2016 Calendar

Registration is required for all programs, unless stated otherwise.

Visit www.thewatershed.org for more detailed information about all programs. Registration for Adult Education series is exclusively online.

Unless stated otherwise, all programs meet at the Watershed Center, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Reserve, 31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington.

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 are indicated by *
Arts Council of Princeton, REI in Lawrenceville, Washington Crossing Audubon Society

Programs for Adults

Registration required.

SEPTEMBER 14, 28, OCTOBER 12, 26, NOVEMBER 9, 23, DECEMBER 7

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Wednesdays, 8:30–9:30AM, Adults only, Free for Members/\$5NM

Start your autumn day off right with a walk on the Watershed Reserve trails with Senior Naturalist Allison Jackson. Binoculars, camera and nature journal are encouraged.

SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 19, NOVEMBER 16

New—Out There: Voices from the Wild Reading Group

Wednesdays, 7:30–9:00PM, Adults only, \$10M/\$15NM per session

Facilitator Jeff Hoagland invites you to enjoy this unique and relaxed reading group in exploring the wide and varied terrain of nature writing, wildness and wilderness. Each month, readers will receive some poems and prose focused on a specific topic. Autumn topics: September—Birds; October—Rivers; and November—Skies. Light refreshments provided.

Language of Nature

Registration required.

Deepen your understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural world. Course consists of 6 weeknight classes and 3 Saturday morning field trips. Classroom sessions at the Watershed Center focus on the science of our natural world, including evolution, classification, and ecological interactions. The field trips focus on identification and observation skills of species, habitats and behavior.

No tests, no papers, no stress! Register online, www.thewatershed.org/adult-education.

OCTOBER 4–NOVEMBER 8

Trees of New Jersey

Tuesdays, 7:30–9:00PM, Adults, \$195M/\$245NM

Saturday morning field trip dates: October 15, 22 and 29

Instructor: Bill Brash, Director (retired), Mercer County Soil Conservation

Topics include tree ID, forest ecosystem, home ecosystem, tree and shrub care



Programs for Adults and Families

Registration required unless noted otherwise.

SEPTEMBER 16

Eco-Printing*

Friday, 10:00AM–3:30PM, 15yo–Adult, Fee: \$60M/\$85NM

Learn to decorate silk scarves and/or bandanas using dyes we produce from plant material! The session will begin with a short introduction followed by a long walk on the property to collect leaves, barks, nuts, berries and blossoms. Using no chemicals or additives, participants will then learn how to use the plant material to decorate their fabric item. Beginners welcome. \$12 materials fee payable to instructor. Register at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org, or call 609-924-8777.

SEPTEMBER 16

Creepy Spider Night Hunt

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

Crab spiders, jumping spiders, wolf spiders, orb and funnel weavers and more! Join our annual night hunt with nocturnal naturalist Jeff Hoagland. We will navigate the trails of the Watershed Reserve using our flashlights in search of many different types of spiders.

SEPTEMBER 17

Creative Journey Workshop*

Saturday, 10:00AM–4:00PM, 15yo–Adult, \$105M/\$130NM
Take a creative journey in textile design with ACP instructor Lian Sawires! Discover how to create and compile your own designs into a book of incredible motifs. Quick creative exercises will prompt you to explore shape, form and color, build print blocks and isolate patterns. Students will produce fabric pieces and samples, production notes, handmade stamps and a book of original designs. \$35 materials fee payable to instructor. Register at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org, or call 609-924-8777.

SEPTEMBER 17

Trailside Nature Mandala*

Saturday, 10:00–11:30AM, Families (children 5yo+), Free
A mandala is a symbolic pattern, often in the form of a circle, which can frequently be used for meditation. While on a walk of the Reserve trails, families will join Teacher-Naturalist Brooke Shaffer to reflect on the change of seasons and nature's beauty. Your unique creativity will be encouraged as we collect natural materials and arrange them in the form of a mandala.

SEPTEMBER 19, OCTOBER 3, 24, NOVEMBER 7, 21 AND DECEMBER 5

Lunch & Learn Fall Series

Mondays, 11:30AM–12:30PM, Families, \$5 per child
Parents and children 5–10 years old—pack your lunch and join Senior Naturalist Allison Jackson for a nature-themed lunch! Enjoy your lunch with us in the Watershed Center coupled with a nature mini-lesson and a hands-on activity. Registration is not required!

OCTOBER 1

In Search of Nature's Oddballs*

Saturday, 10:00–11:30AM, Families (children 5yo+), Free
Did you know that daddy-long-legs are not spiders? How does a millipede move without tripping on its many feet? How do some insects turn their host plants into a home and food? Join Teacher-Naturalist Stefanie Paeg as she searches the Watershed Reserve trails for some of these unusual creatures—nature's oddballs.

OCTOBER 8

Pedal the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail*

Saturday, 9:00AM–1:30PM, Adults and Families (children 12yo+), Free
Explore the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail by bike as part of the River Days celebration sponsored by the William Penn Foundation. Starting at the Watershed Center, we will bike the Lawrence Hopewell Trail to Lawrenceville and back. Morning refreshments and lunch provided. Participants must provide their own bike and obey NJ helmet laws.

OCTOBER 22

ROCK-tober Hike in the Sourland Mountains

Saturday, 1:30–3:30PM, Adults and Families (children 5yo+), \$5 per person
Join Jeff Hoagland on a moderate hike to celebrate the rugged rocks of the Sourland Mountains. Wear sturdy and comfortable walking shoes/boots and bring water bottle. This hike does not meet on the Watershed Reserve. Meeting location supplied upon registration.

OCTOBER 29

Nature of the Night Halloween Hike & Campfire

Saturday, 4:00–5:30PM, Families (children 4–6yo)
\$10 pp OR \$25 per family
Saturday, 7:00–9:00PM, Families (children 7–12yo)
\$10 pp OR \$35 per family

Don't miss our annual family-friendly night hike on the Watershed Reserve! Join the Education Staff to explore the ecology of night and magic of Halloween. Early sessions are for families with younger children; once the sun goes down, a little more spook-tacular fun is included for older children. Includes campfire in the woods with stories and roasted marshmallows. Guided hikes begin every 20 minutes; last hike begins at 8:00PM. Space is limited in each hike; pre-registration and pre-payment are required.



NOVEMBER 5

Art with Nature*

*Saturday, 9:30AM–1:00PM, 15yo–Adult,
Fee per person: \$60M/\$75NM*

Arts Council of Princeton artist/instructor Janet Keller Laughlin will help you create works of art with dried and fresh plant material. Begin with a Naturalist-led hike on the Reserve trails to collect specimen items such as vines, seed pods, and other plant materials. Then head into the Watershed Center to create botanical assemblages, wreaths and/or arrangements. Participants should bring their own gloves and clippers. Most materials will be provided; additional embellishments will be available for purchase from the instructor. Register at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org, or call 609-924-8777.



NOVEMBER 5 & 6

Wilderness First Aid Certification*

*Saturday and Sunday, 9:00AM–6:00PM each day,
16yo–Adult, 2-Day Fee: \$255/\$225 REI members*

This is a 2-day course that will teach you the skills and abilities to make sound decisions in emergency situations. It is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals in remote locations. Successful completion of the course will certify participants in NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute Wilderness First Aid. Course conducted

Programs for Children

Registration required unless noted otherwise.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 29, NOVEMBER 3, 17
AND DECEMBER 1**

Tiny Tot Walks with Miss Allison

*Thursdays, 10:30–11:30AM, children 18–36 months (with
an adult), Class fee per child: \$8M/\$12NM*

You are never too young to start exploring outdoors! You and your toddler will experience nature as we share walks on the Reserve, art activities and story time. Tiny Tot walks provide a fun introduction to animals, plants and nature in general. Dress for fickle fall weather because we always go outside. All children must be walking and accompanied by an adult.

on the Watershed Reserve, register online, <http://tinyurl.com/REIWFA>. Candidates seeking recertification should review WMI's recertification policy before enrolling in this course, <http://tinyurl.com/WMIRECERT>

DECEMBER 3

Winter Bird Walk*

Saturday, 8:00–10:00AM, 15yo–Adult, Free

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

DECEMBER 3

Holiday Open House

Saturday, 1:00–4:00PM, Families and Adults, Free

Drop in to celebrate the upcoming holidays with the SBMWA Staff! Informal tours of the Watershed Center, nature walks and simple children's crafts available. Get a jump on your holiday shopping and receive 20% off your purchases. Registration is not required.

DECEMBER 10

Candle Making Workshop

Saturday, 1:00–3:00PM, 8yo–Adult, \$10M/\$15NM

Celebrate the approaching Winter Solstice and the return of the light by making candles with the Teacher-Naturalists! We will create hand-dipped candles and sand candles. Learn how to shape candles and add embellishments, then go home with your unique handmade gifts!



STEM Saturdays for Preschoolers

*Saturdays, 10:00–11:00AM, Parent and child
(3–5 years old), \$10M/\$15NM*

NEW this fall—parents and preschoolers can explore the STEM world (science, technology, engineering and math) together, under the guidance of Senior Naturalist Allison Jackson. Activities are all age-appropriate for early learners and designed to engage families! Topics vary monthly and include stories and outdoor exploration. Parent is expected to stay for entire class.

SEPTEMBER 10—Bugs Abound

OCTOBER 1—Birds on the Move

NOVEMBER 5—Trees in Fall

Fall Preschool Nature Classes

Tuesdays, 10:00–11:30AM AND Wednesdays, 1:00–2:30PM
Class fee per child: \$10M/\$15NM. Register and pay for 4 classes, receive a 5th class free.

Children 3–5 years old learn about nature while exploring the out-of-doors with one of the Teacher-Naturalists. Each class includes outdoor exploration, stories and simple crafts. A parent must stay with any child younger than 4. Class size is limited, register for either day.

Fall Series I:

SEPT. 13, 14—Amazing Ants

SEPT. 20, 21—Predator vs. Prey Play

**SEPT. 27, 28—Magnificent World
of Mantids**

OCT. 25, 26—Halloween Animal Costumes

NOV. 1, 2—Leaves are Falling

Fall Series II:

NOV. 8, 9—Spikes, Spines, and Stingers

NOV. 15, 16—Camouflage

NOV. 22, 23—Turkey Trot

NOV. 29, 30—Masked Bandit

DEC. 6, 7—Winter Wildlife Theater

OCTOBER 29

Ghoul School

Saturday, 9:30–11:30AM, children 7–10 years old,
Fee per child: \$15M/\$20NM

Creepy chemistry and mad science experiments have taken over the Watershed lab today! Join the Teacher-Naturalists for some silly and serious Halloween fun! Please wear your costume too!

NOVEMBER 10 & 11

Fall STEAM Ahead! Mini-Camp

Thursday and Friday, 9:30AM–4:00PM, children 6–12 years old

Fee per day per child: \$80M/\$95NM; sibling/multi-day discounts available

All public schools in New Jersey are closed...so spend the day exploring science, technology, engineering, art and math with the Teacher-Naturalists! The Watershed Center and Lab will be 'home base' but children spend part of each day exploring outdoors. Pre-payment is required. Sign up for one day or both—extended care available at extra fee.

Programs for Scouts

Registration and prepayment required.

SEPTEMBER 23

Girl Scout Twilight Geocache & Campfire

Friday, 7:00–9:00PM, Cadette, Senior & Ambassador Girl Scouts, Fee per registered Girl Scout: \$10

Enjoy the fun of geocaching under the stars! Girl Scouts will learn the basics of using a GPS unit. Using your GPS and flashlight, you will navigate through the night to our rendezvous campfire in the woods. Space is limited for adults and registration preference given to girls.

SEPTEMBER 24

Girl Scout Monarch Morning

Saturday, 10:00AM–12:00PM, Brownie & Junior Girl Scouts, Fee per registered Girl Scout: \$7

Monarch butterflies complete one of the most incredible migrations in the animal world! Learn about the migration routes of this amazing insect, as well as Monarch conservation efforts and basic information about all insects. Space is limited for adults and registration preference given to girls.

OCTOBER 1

BSA 'Forestry' Merit Badge Workshop

Saturday, 9:00AM–12:00PM, Boy Scouts 11–17yo,
Fee per registered Scout: \$30

Join Education Director and Merit Badge Counselor Jeff Hoagland for this outdoor workshop to fulfill requirements of the 'Forestry' merit badge. Using field guides and special forestry tools, scouts will examine forest ecology and management on the Watershed Reserve.

OCTOBER 21 & 22

Girl Scout Troop Camp-In

Friday, 7:00PM–Saturday, 9:00AM, Junior Girl Scouts,
Fee per girl: \$35, Fee per adult: \$15

We have a night of indoor and outdoor fun planned for you and your troop this weekend... scavenger hikes, meet the critters, and a campfire (weather permitting) are some of the activities you can look forward to. At the end of the evening, spread your sleeping bags out on the floor of the Watershed Center! Registration is by troop only. Fee includes Watershed Center patch (for girls), snacks and Saturday breakfast.

SPEAKING OF NATURE

Headwaters

by Jeff Hoagland

I've always had the habit of following the waterways in my life, first upstream, and then downstream. Where is this stream coming from, where is it going? You might know I have a similar line of inquiry when meeting people and making new friends.

I've lived in several large watersheds including the Tuolumne River in California, and the Delaware and Raritan Rivers in New Jersey. I've been drawn to work my way up these rivers, not strategically, but impulsively, out of simple joy and desire. Birding. Hiking. Camping. Paddling. Communing.

I have, however, most often identified my sense of place with the smaller waterways of my life. Some of these seemed to lack verifiable names—a small creek emerging from the storm drains of my neighborhood and running into Washington Crossing State Park, or the smooth gravelly creek out my front door in Marin County, draining the redwood gulch into Bolinas Lagoon. Of all of these magical waterways, the Stony Brook persists in casting its spell—I have lived and worked along her for most of my life.

I continue to explore the headwaters of the Stony Brook on a regular basis. Born in the verdant Sourland Mountains, the Brook has many tributaries, all sitting atop the persistent gray traprock or diabase bedrock that forms the ridge. About 200 million years ago a large flow of magma, trapped by sedimentary layers of stone, slowly cooled into a dense layer of stone. This subterranean layer persists now as a 500-foot tall surface feature, a “mountain”, untrapped after millions of years of dramatic erosion.

*water flowing
the laughter
of barred owls*

This is a wonderful place to explore, to commune with nature's wonders. Rich in biodiversity, the Sourlands harbor a wealth of plant and animal life. It is a place where amphibians seem to spring forth from the earth to gather in the rain water. A great variety of birds contribute to an impressive biophony, adding a rich sonic dimension to this lush green landscape. Many of the plant and animal residents seem to be refugees, designated as endangered, threatened or rare.



Kids play among the bouldery terrain.

The Sourlands are inhabited by a most impressive array of boulders. Many of these boulders form neighborhoods of stone—Devil's Half Acre, Roaring Rocks, Fort Hans and Hart's Cave. The boulders are not the result of glaciers themselves but of periglacial activity. South of the Pleistocene ice sheets of long ago, this region experienced countless cycles of freezing and thawing accompanied by torrents of meltwater.

This impressive geology makes this region ill-suited for development. The bouldery terrain, sitting atop hundreds of feet of solid rock, creates a serious impediment for securing well water and disposing of waste water. This has long protected this region, and the headwaters of the Stony Brook, from substantial development. But, as we have seen time and again, nature alone is not enough to stop harmful development.

The Sourlands have had many champions over the years, including the Watershed Association. In 1984, when I first started work here, the Sourlands were one of the many focal points of our advocacy work. As development pressure mounted, a grassroots movement to value and protect the Sourlands emerged. Bob Garrett led this effort, accompanied by many, and in 1986 the Sourland Planning Council was born.

I am grateful for the continued work of our friends at the Sourland Conservancy. Thirty years. It takes a village—of citizens and environmental organizations—to protect our valuable natural resources. Pristine habitat. Biodiversity. Endangered and threatened species. And clean water.

*between a rock
and a hard place
spring water*

Upgrades Planned on the Reserve

continued from page 1

loop, is being built with a product made from 95 percent recycled content that is slip resistant when wet. New educational signs will interpret the meadows, woods, and wetlands traversed by the boardwalk.

Second, the organization has planned a stone dust trail to link the Watershed Center's driveway to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT), a 20+ mile multi-use trail that connects some of the region's largest employers to parks and recreation areas and is part of the Greater Philadelphia Circuit Trail. The new trail will parallel Titus Mill Road and connect to the LHT at Wargo Road, allowing visitors to more easily cycle or walk to the Watershed Center.

The Watershed is also designing a new nature play area for young children, which will feature mostly natural objects, like large logs to climb, "tunnels" composed of native plants, grassy mounds and piles of sand. The new area will enhance the Watershed's efforts to combat what author Richard Louv refers to



Property Manager, Matt Thompson stands on the first installed section of boardwalk at the Watershed Center.

as "Nature-Deficit Disorder," a serious problem thought to contribute to childhood obesity, attention-deficit disorder, anxiety and depression. Nature play areas like the one we are planning are believed to promote the physical, emotional and intellectual development of children.



Timberlane Middle School students pictured here helped install native plantings in our Watershed meadows.

To guide improvements to the Watershed Reserve's natural habitats, the organization contracted with Hopewell ecologist Michael Van Clef. Van Clef identified particularly rare and sensitive species, assessed the status of invasive, non-native species and made recommendations for the Reserve's protection and management.

Van Clef identified several areas of the Reserve with "very high habitat quality," including

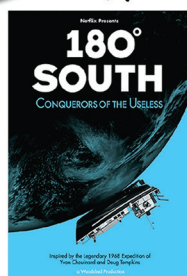
forested lands on the Mount Rose Ridge at the northern reaches of the property that contain a mature forest canopy and dense understory of native shrubs. Meadows of warm-season grasses that the Watershed restored in the late 2000s on 45 acres northeast and northwest of the organic farm were also classified as "very high" habitat quality.

Other areas include a mix of native species and non-native, invasive species like autumn olive and multiflora rose. Browse by deer in these areas is suppressing the growth of young native plants beneath the forest canopy and making them more susceptible to invasive species. In some of these areas, the Watershed plans to install fences to keep deer out and hopes to enlist volunteers to help remove invasive species and plant native seedlings.

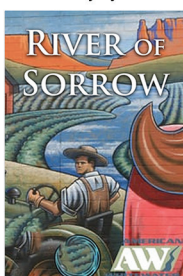
To protect the healthy forest of the Mount Rose Ridge, the Watershed is seeking to purchase approximately 20 acres from the Hopewell Veterinary Group near the boundary between Hopewell Township and Hopewell Borough. (The Vet Group will retain its buildings and parking lot.)

Funds to implement these improvements will be raised from a variety of sources. To find out how you can support these initiatives, contact Jenny-Ann Kershner, our development director at jkershner@thewatershed.org.

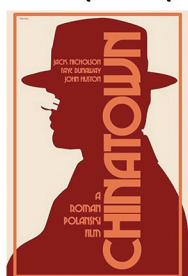
FREE First Sunday Film Series at the Watershed Center



SEPT 4



OCT 2



NOV 6

New Charity Navigator Rating

We are proud to announce that The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association has attained the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator.

Charity Navigator is America's largest independent charity evaluator, and provides free ratings of the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of thousands of nonprofits.



Keeping water clean, safe and healthy is the heart of our mission.
We work to protect and restore our water and natural environment in central New Jersey through conservation, advocacy, science and education.

Visit us online to show your support. Donate, stay informed, get involved.
www.thewatershed.org • www.njweather.org/station/3526

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



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OktoberFEST

SATURDAY, OCT. 15, 2016

Hor's D'oeuvres and Cocktails
Craft Beer and Entertainment
Silent and Live Auctions
Dinner under the Oktoberfest Tent
Dessert Buffet and Coffee Bar

Enjoy an old style German
Festival experience!
Liederhosen, dirndls and
German FEST attire admired,
and don't forget your Wellies!

For tickets, auction and more information visit
BidPal.net/WatershedOktoberfest