

WELLSPRING

A publication of The Watershed Institute. Keeping central New Jersey's water clean, safe, & healthy since 1949.

Celebrating
70 Years
Established in 1949

**Watershed Brings
Green Infrastructure
to Hopewell Borough** ...p3

**A Farewell to
Old Friends** p2...

Businesses Help Advance Our Mission ... p13

Thanking Our 2018 Corporate & Foundation Donors

The
Watershed
Institute



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Farewell to Old Friends...

by Jim Waltman

The best part of my job is getting to know the extraordinary people who are involved at the Watershed. Our extended family of staff, board, volunteers, donors, and members is an exceptionally committed and loyal group!

But on our 70th Anniversary, I realize that the sad part of working for an organization with so many long-time members is that we lose treasured friends every year.

Last year we lost some extraordinary people.

Fred Spar was a model Watershed Trustee and a passionate and dedicated advocate for the environment. Fred was instrumental in three important projects at the Watershed. He was the driving force behind our Language of Nature series of education programs, identifying and lining up instructors from academia and government agencies to teach these courses. As chair of our Property Committee, he researched the state's historic preservation program and led our effort to secure a new state grant that will allow us to create a historic preservation plan for our large white barn. He also led our effort to identify and hire a consultant to prepare a conservation plan for the Watershed Reserve.



Fred Spar at our 2018 annual meeting.

A champion for the environment and ethics in government, **Senator William Schluter** was a Watershed Trustee in the 1970s and served as vice chair of our Board. A man of the highest integrity, he was a member of the Watershed for more than thirty years.



Senator William Schluter

Martha (Lewie) Kingsford was a spirited and committed supporter and advocate for the Watershed for more than 40 years. Lewie taught me about the early history of our organization, which her late husband Irving helped lead in the 1960s and 1970s, and which Irving's mother-in-law Kathleen Peyton helped found in 1949.



Martha (Lewie) Kingsford

Kit Hildick-Smith was a generous supporter for more than 30 years. Kit helped me understand the personal impact that the Watershed has on people's lives when she told me about her son Andrew. A high ranking official with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Andrew's career path started at the Watershed as a camper and camp counselor. Later in life, Kit was a great ambassador for the organization at Windrows, an independent living retirement community.



From left, Mrs. Betty Wold Johnson with her friend Kit Hildick-Smith.

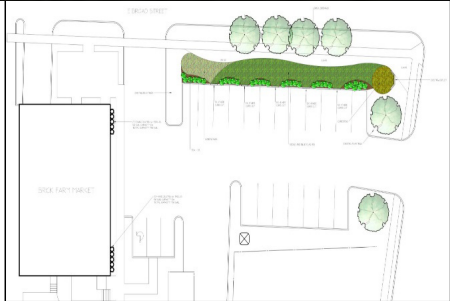
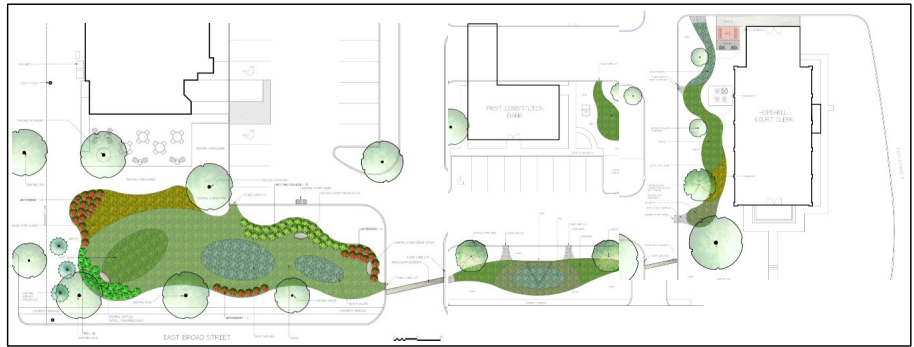
Knowing the personal commitment of so many Watershed members, living and gone, propels me forward with even greater urgency to advance our essential mission.

Jim

Green infrastructure—rain gardens, vegetated swales, trees, and other natural methods used to filter and absorb water—will be installed to capture and soak up excess stormwater runoff to keep it from polluting Beden Brook.

“Runoff is the biggest cause of flooding and water pollution in lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and other waterways in New Jersey,” said Jim Waltman, the Watershed’s Executive Director. The Beden Brook project is funded with a \$400,000 Water Quality Restoration Grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Waltman said the Beden Brook project takes on a heightened importance as climate change increases the intensity and frequency of rain events. Sampling has shown that parts of Beden Brook are already polluted with excess phosphorous and e. coli and some stream banks show signs of significant erosion.



Kory Kreiseder, said, “We’re eager to help Hopewell Borough better manage its stormwater and improve the appearance of the gateway to downtown.”

Learning to Love – LOVING TO LEARN

In the summer of 1970, I owned a quiet patch of moss-covered earth overlooking the waters of a small stream. I inhabited this spot during my daylong stream adventures, a place to plot and plan, to recount the discoveries of the day, and to simply take inventory of my heart.

I spent much of my youth in the wild, a feral child, in the treetops spying on birds, in meadows with my insect friends, and in the undergrowth in adopted bush houses. A sprawl of wild meadows, fallow farmland and forested parkland surrounded our small and emerging development. Nature spoke to me in clear and eloquent tones, luring me to a range of habitat and opportunity. The stream, however, called loudest, and was a favorite haunt for years.

We are drawn to moving water, not just for childhood adventure or aesthetics, but because it is in our DNA. The quest for water has been a constant in our evolution, making or breaking civilizations. We cannot live more than three days without water. We are water creatures, 60 percent water. We are like streams, water flowing through us.

So I surrendered to this truth, this attraction, long ago. If there is magic in this world, it is in water. I have always known this, and embraced this. I have been lucky to affirm this notion through my work for decades. Creek love.

Thirty-five years ago, I was hired to work at the young Summer Camp at the Watershed. Thrilled to learn that the Stony Brook was part of our terrain, we ushered dozens of children to this wild setting on hot summer days to inhabit their imagination and sense of wonder.

A scaly-barked river birch reaches over the water for the light. Still green foliage dangles at the end of a long arc, the resting spot for the rattle of the kingfisher. Below, on the water's reflective surface, circular ripples collide as unseen creek chub feed on small insects.

Summer campers, we sit just downstream, some of us on the exposed roots of a sycamore, others on the cool, damp earth. Further downstream, others are looking for crayfish or salamanders, distracted by a wriggling assortment of aquatic insects. We are all trapped in this eddy of wonder.

Some students bring me their quarry seeking answers or just sharing joy. Others simply relish the magic as the water runs over their feet. A stick boat race breaks out and before long, we are all moving downstream pulled to some unknown destination.

Every year experiences like these are the foundation of the camp. Through direct experience, and through the heart, campers learn about clean water and aquatic life and our role in the ecosystem. From our earliest days, we have used this approach with many of our public programs as well. Our work with schools, lacking the luxury of time, has evolved with a stronger and critical focus on scientific inquiry.

the shadows
in Stony Brook
sunfish

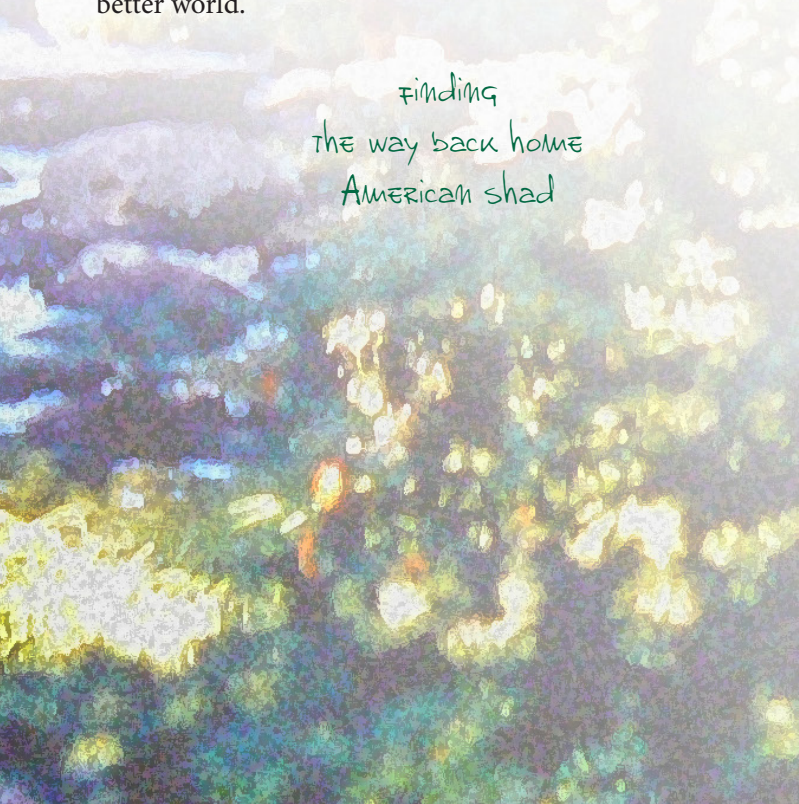
stick boat
my imagination
runs ahead of me

At water's edge, listening to the riffle music, the students ponder the question. Can the fish they just met in the aquarium at the Watershed Center, thrive in this brook? Quietly surveying the scene, students begin to offer their ideas about what they want to consider. "Is the water clean?" "Is there food present?" "What does the fish need?" Soon an investigation takes shape as the students are transformed into a community of scientists.

Tasks are identified, the labor is divided, and students are soon shin-deep in data. Some identify macroinvertebrates - food items and water quality indicators- while others test and measure the water, checking depth and clarity, and determining the presence of nutrients and pollutants. After sharing and weighing data, the students make their claim, "arguing" from the evidence they have uncovered.

The magic of water is fully tangled with the wonder of science. Students discover that the processes of science are a journey to discovery. They relish the role and take ownership of what they have learned. These lessons conclude as all good science lessons should – with exclamation points. And question marks.

We are empowering the next generation to take charge of this complicated world. Last year we began engaging students to engineering challenges at the Watershed Center. Students grapple with real world issues and design solutions for a better world.



Finding
the way back home
American shad

One fish is swimming in circles, as if trapped in a powerful vortex. Another races from one side of the river to the other, like a caged cat in a zoo. Others zig and zag, converging and crashing into each other before dispersing and repeating the behavior.

The students lean over the river, at first quiet and hopeful, then audibly urging the fish on. Cheering erupts when one fish finds the fish ladder and works its way past the dam. A second fish approaches the fish ladder, turning away at the last second before another darts its way up the ladder. The children dance like the Peanuts gang on fast forward.

This river is indoors, a model, and the fish are small, colorful bots. The river in this scenario was dammed long ago, blocking the passage of migratory fish. The students are challenged to design a solution that allows fish to migrate and breed while leaving the dam in place.

Working in teams, students collaborate, and learn to work as engineers, using imagination and calculation to solve the problem. They design and test solutions, shop for building materials, and share their results, applauding wildly at success. They love the challenge, and they love creating solutions.

Springtime
water running
through my heart

Streams have always been an integral part of my love affair with the natural world. Likewise they have been a key component of our program repertoire and out classroom on the Watershed Reserve and beyond.

We are investing in a future populated by decision-makers who understand and embrace science. We are investing in a future where skilled engineers identify problems and design solutions in a world inhabited by nearly 8 billion people and counting. We are committed to providing a well-calculated and diverse array of learning experiences to help get us there. We believe that a key component of this is direct engagement with the natural world. Out there, our inborn sense of wonder creates a thirst for knowledge and instigates a vast amount of learning. It can be easy to fall in love with this world...just add water.

Stream Cleanups

Saturday, April 6
9-11AM

Cranbury

Ewing

Lawrence

Mongtomery

Princeton

Trenton

Saturday, April 13
9-11AM *9:30AM-12PM

East Windsor

Franklin & New Brunswick*

Hightstown

Millstone*

Monroe & Jamesburg

Plainsboro

Hopewell

Peddie School Power!

The Peddie School is celebrating Earth Day with 550 students and teachers participating in clean-ups, trail maintenance, and plantings in the community. We are proud to work with groups to plant trees, restore a riparian area, and to plant and deploy four floating wetlands at Meadow Lakes Assisted Living Community!



Volunteers help cleanup along the D&R Canal in Princeton.

On April 6 and 13, the Watershed will organize volunteers to help remove trash and debris from our local rivers and streams at our 13th Annual Stream Cleanups.

Over the past decade, these efforts have helped remove more than 105,000 pounds (52.5 tons) of garbage with the help of 5,435 volunteers.

This year's cleanups in 13 locations are a great way to get outside, improve the scenic beauty of our region, and positively impact our wildlife habitat.

We appreciate the continued support of our generous sponsors who make our cleanups possible. Bloomberg, American Rivers, Lilly, Colgate-Palmolive, and New Jersey Clean Communities have provided volunteers and resources. Please contact Erin Stretz at estretz@thewatershed.org for donations and volunteer support.

Visit our website for updates and clean up locations:
thewatershed.org/stream-cleanups



Did You Know... less than 10% of 'disposable' plastic is recycled in the U.S.? Single-use plastics can take up to 1,000 years to degrade - and only into smaller more harmful microplastics. Consider purchasing reusable, recycled, and durable goods. This Earth Day, don't just pick up waste - help eliminate the source.

Nat. Geo. : Planet or Plastic? - news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment

Spring 2019 Calendar

Get outside and smell the flowers with The Watershed Institute! Join our programs & events with the whole family. Be a part of the magic that makes our work so special. Clean water and a healthy environment depend on you.

Visit us online to register for events, renew your membership, and automatically receive member discounts securely from any device. Registration is required. Programs with low registration are subject to cancellation.

Watershed members receive 20% off most programs when signed in.

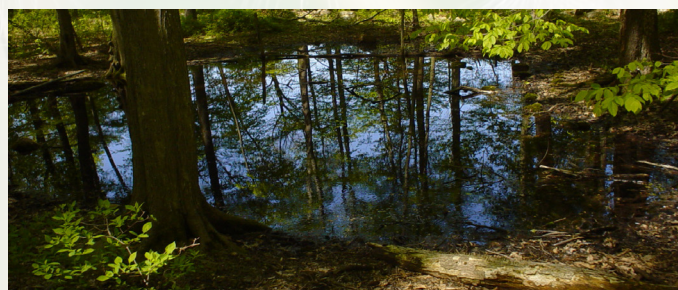
thewatershed.org/events

SATURDAY MARCH 30

Vernal Pools

10:00-11:30AM | 12:30-2:00PM, Gen. Aud., ages 6+; \$5

Come on an exploratory hike of vernal pools in the Sourland Mountains. With luck, we may see amphibians or their eggs! Waterproof boots are necessary. Total hike is 1.3 miles. *Join us for the morning or for the afternoon.* Vernal pools are the gathering point of the spring thaw and rains and offer an invitation to a small assortment of amphibians. Investigate these unique waters in search of these denizens or their eggs. This program does not meet at the Watershed Reserve.



A vernal pool near Mt. Rose is a hot spot for amphibians.

MONDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 1-5

School's Out Program

9:00AM-4:00PM, Children, ages 5-12; daily fee per child; \$80. Multi-day discounts available. Extended care: \$10 from 8-9AM and \$15 from 4-5:30PM.

Is your school closed for spring break? Spend the week springtime forests and fields with the Watershed Educators. Discover what's happening in nature while hiking, playing games, building shelters, and making art. Each day includes a campfire and marshmallow roasting!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Family Hike to Big Boulder

1:00PM-4:00PM, General Audience, ages 8+; \$5

Join us for a pleasant 3-mile hike from Wargo Pond to Big Boulder and back on the Watershed Trail! We will enjoy spring ephemeral wildflowers, calling songbirds, and fresh spring air. Wear waterproof boots. Meet at Wargo Pond.

SUNDAYS, APRIL 7 | MAY 5 | JUNE 2

First Sunday Environmental Film Series

1:00PM, General Audience; Free, Walk-ins welcome

Watch free films on Sunday afternoons including April's "To the Ends of the Earth", "The Beaver Believers" in May, and "The True Cost" in June. Visit thewatershed.org/films.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Frog Slog

8:00-10:00PM, General Audience, ages 6+; \$10

Come discover the secret life of frogs with us our soggy and sonic Wargo Pond. Boots and flashlight are necessary!

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Visit Mountain Brook

10:00AM-12:00PM, General Audience, ages 6+; Free

Enjoy a walk on Mountain Lakes Reserve, visiting Mountain Brook, a small tributary of the Stony Brook. Learn how natural habitats help keep our water clean and meet a variety of plants and animals that call this stream home. This program does not meet at the Watershed Reserve. Co-sponsored by Friends of Princeton Open Space and Washington Crossing Audubon.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Ginko – International Haiku Poetry Day

1:30-4:00PM, General Audience, ages 15+; Free

Join Education Director and haiku poet Jeff Hoagland on a ginko, or haiku walk, in celebration of this traditional Japanese form of poetry and its focus on nature. Bring a notebook or journal. No prior writing experience required. Presented in collaboration with The Haiku Foundation.



Keep an eye out for Red Fox cubs in the spring sunshine.

WEDNESDAYS, APR 17 | MAY 15 | JUN 19

Out There Reading Group

7:30-9:00PM, Adults; Free

Explore the wide and varied terrain of nature writing with facilitator Jeff Hoagland. This unique and relaxed reading group will focus on a specific topic or book topic each month. Curated readings are provided for March and May. Spring topics: March – Eco-poetry sampler; April – A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean; May – Outdoor adventures; June – The Pine Barrens by John McPhee. Sign up for individual sessions or all four.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Flashlight Egg Hunt

7:30PM, Children, ages 5+; \$10 per child

Come out after dark to roam the field in search of real colored eggs. Will you find a prize egg? This is the most egg-citing way to celebrate spring. Bring your own flashlight and a basket or bag for your eggs. Join us early for photos with the bunny at the Watershed Center, and then head out to the field for the 8PM hunt start time.



Bring your own flashlight for a truly unique evening event.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Bird Study Merit Badge Workshop (BSA)

9:30AM-12:30PM, Children, ages 13+; \$25

Join Education Director & BSA Merit Badge Counselor Jeff Hoagland for this workshop designed to help Boy Scouts earn the 'Bird Study' merit badge. Learn to observe and identify a variety of birds. Some of the merit badge requirements need to be completed prior to the workshop. Register for the 'Build a Birdhouse' workshop that is offered following this workshop to complete your badge!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Build a Birdhouse

1:00-2:30PM, General Audience, ages 5+; \$20 per kit

Join us for a brief hike to discover several bird homes and nests. Then build your own bird house with us to take home and invite your new avian neighbors! This activity helps you earn River Friendly points. Also a great way to complete your badge requirements from the 'BSA Bird Study Merit Badge Workshop' that is offered the same morning!



Build a birdhouse for your yard, or as a mother's day gift!

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Family Astronomy

8:30-9:30PM, General Audience, ages 5+; \$5

Explore the wonders of the night sky beneath the ribbon of the Milky Way. Discover some prominent constellations and learn the stories behind them. Meet some of our planet neighbors through telescopes during this beginner family astronomy session.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Fly Fishing 101

10:00AM-12:00PM, Adults and teens ages 16+; \$20

Explore the art of fly fishing with this introductory course conducted by Bruce Turner, Fly Fishing Manager at Orvis of Princeton. After a broad overview and some demonstrations, proceed to the water and use the provided rods and flies to try your luck. Fishing will require a current NJ fishing license and trout stamp. Co-sponsored by Orvis.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Pressed About Flowers

10:00AM-12:00PM, General Audience, ages 6+; Free

Learn about the science and art of flower pressing. We will explore the scientific discoveries that have been made through preserving plants, as well as some astounding art created with pressed flowers. Take a walk to visit our springtime flowers, learn how to use a plant press, and create your very own pressed flower art - just in time for Mother's Day! Sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon Society.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Exploring the Night

8:30PM-10:30PM, General Audience, ages 8+; \$10

Join this illuminating exploration of nature at night on the Mountain Lakes Reserve. Throughout the year, nighttime offers unique and revealing insight into the local ecology. On this spring evening we may discover the songs of courting frogs, talk to owls, listen for foxes and look for lingering glowworms. Co-sponsored by Friends of Princeton Open Space, this fun-filled hike will be lead by Naturalist and Watershed Education Director, Jeff Hoagland. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp. This program does not meet at the Watershed Reserve.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

NextGen Student Climate Summit

10:30AM-4:30PM, High School Students; Free

The Watershed is proud to host and participate in this climate change and sustainability summit created by high school students for high school students. The day includes the World Climate simulation game, outdoor experiential ecology activities, student speakers, a non-profit fair and free food. Engage with students from other schools and share sustainability action plans. Lunch included. Optional tour of the Center precedes the conference (at 10:00AM). Advanced online registration required.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Full Moon Storytelling

7:30PM-9:00PM, General Audience, ages 3+; Free

Step away from the screen and into the moonlight! Listen to our storytellers spin yarns from several cultures that will spark your imagination! Roast a marshmallow as you lend an ear to stories from far and near. Sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon Society.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Learn to Canoe

9:00AM-12:00PM, ages 15+; \$15

New to paddling? Here's your chance to learn some basics! Join several experienced paddlers and a certified lifeguard at lovely Wargo pond to learn canoe skills and safety. We will provide all the canoes, paddles, and PFDs! The workshop will include paddling techniques, practice on the water, and a game. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Paddle the Millstone

9:00AM-2:00PM, ages 15+; \$20 per boat

Join the Watershed Educators and a certified lifeguard on the Millstone River. We will provide all the canoes, paddles, and PFDs. All paddlers must be 15+ but younger children are welcome to ride along.



Paddlers enjoy a lieisurely trip along the Delaware River.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Meet the Fish

10:00AM-12:00PM, General Audience, Ages 6+; Free

Come discover a diversity of life at the pond, and maybe even a love of fishing! First, using a seine, we will catch smaller organisms before then trying our hand at using our handcrafted bamboo poles to meet some of the finned denizens of Wargo Pond – bluegills, pumpkinseeds, and largemouth bass! Meets at Wargo Pond. Part of Hopewell Valley Come Outside & Play weekend, Free Fishing Day (no license required), and the Youth Fishing Challenge! Sponsored by Washington Crossing Audubon.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Build a Rain Barrel Workshop

1:00-3:00PM, General Audience; \$50 per barrel

Learn how to capture and reuse rain water in your home garden. We will help you construct your own rain barrel in this River Friendly Workshop. Fee includes all materials to construct one rain barrel.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Tenkara Fishing

6:30-8:00PM, General Audience, ages 16+; \$10

Tenkara is a simple and traditional form of fishing practiced in Japan. Bart Lombardo, President of Central Jersey Trout Unlimited will provide an overview, techniques, equipment, and you can try your luck fishing. NJ fishing license required. Co-sponsored by Orvis.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Butterfly House Seasonal Opening

10:00AM-2:00PM, General Audience; Free

Celebrate the start of the butterfly season! Join us at our annual opening of the Kate Gorrie Butterfly House for tours of the house, butterfly catching with nets, and more!

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Secret Lives of Fireflies

8:00-10:00PM, General Audience, ages 6+; \$5

Come discover the secret lives of the lightning bug, from glowworm to adult firefly. Enjoy 'nature's fireworks' with Education Director Jeff Hoagland and learn how to identify different species by their unique flash patterns.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Family Frogging

4:00-5:30PM, General Audience, ages 6+; \$5

Join us for some good old fashioned family frogging. Learn about frogs and visit our wetland to meet our amphibious friends. Wear rubber boots or closed-toe water shoes.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Butterfly House Tours

10:00-11:00AM, General Audience; \$5

Join us for a guided tour of the butterfly house to view and learn about local butterfly species. If time and weather allows, we may try catching wild butterflies in the field. Cameras welcome. Tours will continue weekly, all summer.

Programs for Children

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Butterfly Tea Party

10:30AM-12:00PM, Children, ages 3-10, \$15

Come meet our butterflies! We will tour the butterfly house, try to catch some wild butterflies in our nets, and then finish with a story and a 'tea' party of lemonade and sugar cookies in the shade.

TUESDAYS, APRIL - JUNE

Toddler Nature Classes

10:00-11:00AM, Children, ages 18-36mo.; \$10 per child

Start instilling a love of nature with our Toddler Nature Classes. You and your toddler will enjoy a song, a story, and a walk outside. Dress for the weather because we always go outside. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 9 – Turtles

MAY 28 – Dandelions

APRIL 23 – Sky

JUNE 4 – Butterflies

MAY 7 – Nests

JUNE 18 – Pond

THURSDAYS, APRIL - JUNE

Preschool Nature Classes

10:00-11:30AM, Children, ages 3-5; \$10 per child

Get wild with us as we learn about a variety of nature topics! Each class includes outdoor exploration, stories and a craft. Dress for the weather because we always go outside. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 11 – Mighty Trees

APRIL 18 – Nature's Symphony

APRIL 25 – Wonders of Waterfowl

MAY 2 – Life in a Log

MAY 9 – Are You My Mother?

MAY 30 – Busy Bees

JUNE 6 – Parachute Play

JUNE 13 – Storytime Forest

JUNE 20 – Lenape for Little Ones

JUNE 27 – Exploring Wargo Pond

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL - JUNE

Homeschool Nature Classes

10:00-11:30AM, Children, ages 5-12; \$10 per child

Delve deep with us into a variety of nature topics! Each class includes a classroom presentation and outdoor exploration. Dress for the weather because we always go outside! Guardians must stay on the property and are encouraged to let their children participate in the class independently.

APRIL 10 – Fun with Trees

APRIL 24 – Exploring Wargo Pond

MAY 1 – Celebrate May

MAY 15 – Outdoor Survival

JUNE 12 – Living like the Lenape

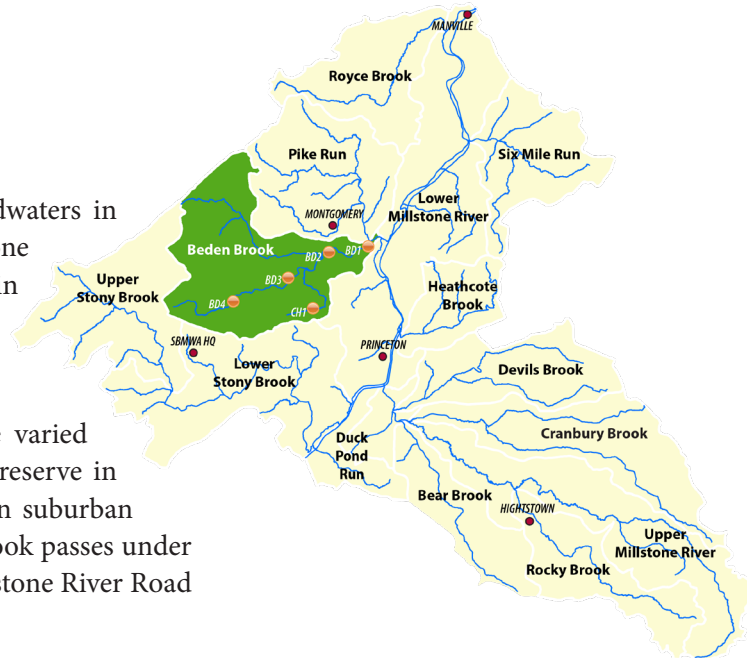
JUNE 19 – Natural Colors

STREAMWATCH

Beden Brook

Beden Brook is a 10 mile stream that runs from its headwaters in Hopewell Borough and Hopewell Township to the Millstone River in the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park in Montgomery Township.

The Watershed Institute's StreamWatch volunteer water monitoring program has four monitoring stations in the varied landscapes along this route at 1) the St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell Township, 2) the Cherry Valley Country Club in suburban Montgomery, 3) the Swan Preserve at Skillman after the brook passes under Route 206, and 4) after its confluence with Pike Run at Millstone River Road before it flows into the Millstone River.



There have been many changes in the water quality of the Beden Brook since we last wrote about it in the Spring issue of 2017. Our volunteers have measured an increase in temperature and nitrate, a pollutant linked to sewage and fertilizers, as well as a decrease in the diversity of aquatic life found in the stream. There are many factors that could contribute to such a decrease in water quality indicators but there is no doubt that the record amount of rainfall we saw in 2018 has played a role.



Erosion along the banks of Beden Brook.

The Watershed Institute has received a grant from NJDEP to address polluted stormwater runoff in the Beden Brook by installing a number of green stormwater infrastructure projects (see article on page 3).

While our scientists have observed declines in water quality in the Beden Brook in recent years, portions of the Beden Brook Watershed are still relatively healthy. In fact, NJDEP recently proposed designating Rock Brook (a tributary to Beden Brook) as a "category one" water body because of its "exceptional ecological significance."

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to the Farley family, Lorna Fletcher, Doug and Anne Kabay, the Michaluk family, Andrew Reasoner, and Zoe Zylowski for monitoring Beden Brook and its tributaries.

The StreamWatch program is funded by Janssen Pharmaceuticals and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

The state of New Jersey saw an average of 64 inches of rainfall in 2018, surpassing the annual average by 40%. Climate scientists have observed a sharp increase in the amount of rain falling in the heaviest storms in the northeastern United States and predict that this trend will continue. These increasingly large rain events deliver pollutants to streams at a high volume and speed.

Scorecard

Aquatic Life	Yellow
Nitrogen	Orange
Phosphorus	Red
Dissolved Oxygen	Green
pH	Yellow
Temperature	Yellow
Turbidity	Green
Bacteria	Grey
Impervious Cover	Yellow

Overall Health Orange

Rankings

Green=Excellent Yellow=Good Orange=Fair Red=Poor

OUR DONORS

Businesses Help Advance Our Mission

Thank you to our Corporations and business partners! From sending a team of volunteers to clean up streams, to sponsoring events, and serving on committees and the board of trustees, corporations and businesses are there to land a hand.

Many companies have a deep commitment to protecting the environment, and partnering with the Watershed is a great way to put that into practice. The Watershed Institute recognizes its partners by promoting them on our website, publicizing their involvement in press releases and promoting sponsors at events. We encourage our members and friends to support these environmentally friendly businesses.



Academy students visit Gateway Ntl. Park.

“Partnering with the Watershed is just good business for our company” says Kathleen Witman, Outreach Coordinator for REI Co-Op. We share the same values and want to ensure that people have the chance to enjoy nature. We have provided grants to the Watershed to help build the boardwalk, led on hikes and programs on the reserve and supported the Trail Run.”

For more information about how your company can support the mission of the Watershed Institute please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Eve Niedergang at eniedergang@thewatershed.org. Many corporations offer matching gifts so please check with your company to see if they do.

One of the many ways that businesses help advance our mission, is by supporting scholarships for our Watershed Academy for high school students. This program helps develop the next generation of environmental leaders by introducing students to the sciences and encouraging learning outdoors. For information about sponsoring scholarships this summer, contact Development Director Jenny Ann Kershner at jkershner@thewatershed.org.

Watershed Academy

for High School Students

Engage in environmental investigations alongside professionals through hands-on activities, scientific techniques, & conservation projects!



thewatershed.org/academy

31 Titus Mill Rd, Pennington, NJ 08534 | 609-737-3735

- Environmental Art**
July 1 - 3
- Candid Wildlife**
July 1 - 3
- Stream Science**
July 8 - 12
- Climate Change**
July 15 - 19
- Envir. Field Science**
July 22 - 26
- Clean Water Academy**
July 29 - Aug. 2
- Green Architecture & Energy**
August 5 - 9



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2018 Foundation & Corporate Donors

\$100,000 and above

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation, Inc.

\$20,000 - \$99,999

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NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Northwestern Mutual
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PSEG
The George H. & Estelle M. Sands Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

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One Small Lot Can Matter a Lot

Protecting watersheds is a complicated endeavor that requires a variety of different skills and strategies. This is why The Watershed Institute employs scientists, policy advocates, educators, and other professionals.

Sometimes our work entails the very public opposition to a proposed development. Other times we engage quietly and privately with landowners to preserve their properties. We also work at different scales. Sometimes we seek to enact policies that protect the environmental resources of entire towns, the entire state, or an entire landscape. Other times we focus on a micro level.

The Watershed is currently part of a coalition of local environmental groups that is working to protect a three-acre lot on Ridgeview Road between the Great Road and Cherry Hill Road in Princeton.



Preserving headwaters helps maintain water quality downstream.

We don't often rally to the defense of such a modest-sized lot but this one happens to contain headwaters of Mountain Brook, a tributary of Stony Brook that has received millions of dollars of conservation funding over the years.

The owner of the Ridgeview Road property is seeking to build a 5,000-square-foot house on a steeply sloped portion of the lot. The proposed grading and construction is uphill from wetlands that form the Mountain Brook headwaters. Because the lot's zoning requires 4-acres per new house, the land owner and prospective builder are required to secure a variance from the Princeton Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to build.

We have opposed such a variance for this land because we fear that unless significantly scaled back, the development could harm the wetlands and stream below.

As this newsletter went to press, Watershed Policy Director Mike Pisauro, was working with the landowner to craft a deal in which the Watershed, Friends of Princeton Open Space, the Princeton Ridge Conservancy, and the municipality of Princeton would purchase and preserve the lot, which is adjacent to other preserved land.

"Hopefully we can come to terms, draft a contract and start the funding process with the state's Green Acres program," he added. "If the proposed development is allowed on this parcel, there would likely be increased sedimentation and pesticides, fertilizers and other pollutants that would flow into Mountain Brook, the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, and ultimately the Stony Brook," Pisauro said. "Protecting the headwaters would help keep sediment out of the waterways and would also provide habitat for wildlife."

He said it is always better to try to preserve environmentally sensitive land before a project reaches the zoning or planning boards, yet we were hopeful that this lot could still be protected.

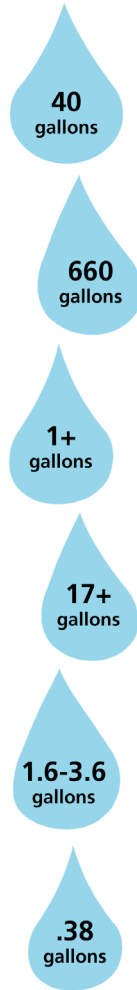
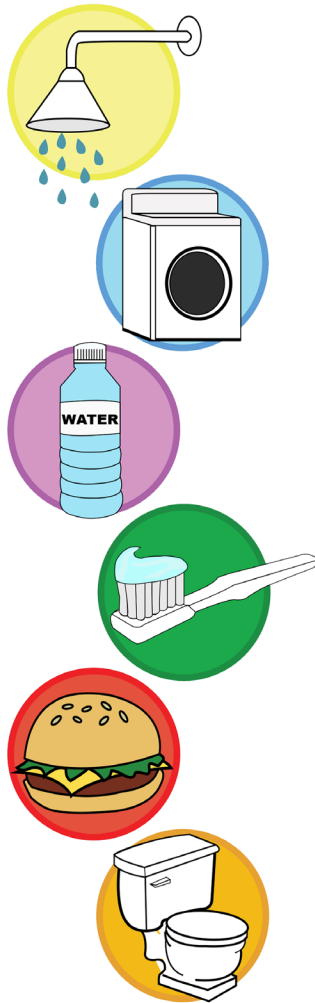
Pisauro's policy team will remain vigilant on this and other proposed development projects and will continue to send out calls-to-action asking Watershed members to weigh in for environmental protection.



An example of a sediment-filled stream.

How Much Water?

Draw a line to match the pictures with the amount of water it uses.



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. Stay informed, get involved, donate.
The Watershed Institute • 31 Titus Mill Rd, Pennington, NJ 08534
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Shower - 17+ gallons (8.2 minutes)
 Load of Laundry - 40 gallons
 16oz Bottle of Water - .38 gallons (48 oz)
 Brushing Teeth - 1 gallon
 Cheeseburger - 660 gallons
 Flushing the Toilet - 1.6 to 3.6 gallons



@theH20shed





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A photograph of several runners on a muddy trail. In the foreground, a man in a purple t-shirt and black shorts is splashing through a puddle, with his arms raised in celebration. He has a green race bib with the number 29. Behind him, other runners are visible, including a man in a black shirt with bib number 154 and a man in a grey shirt with bib number 31. The background is a lush green forest.

SUNDAY - MAY 19

THE 4TH ANNUAL WATERSHED TRAIL RUN & Festival

WIN PRIZES | RUN THE RESERVE | SUPPORT CLEAN WATER

[THEWATERSHED.ORG/TRAIL-RUN](http://thewatershed.org/trail-run)

10K•5K Watershed Trail Run & Festival