

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

WELLSPRING

Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

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Grand Opening on May 2nd!

Members and friends of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association are invited to a Grand Opening of the new Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science and Education on Saturday, May 2 from 11:00 to 3:00. The event will feature demonstrations of the center's innovative energy and water systems, "Wild Science" interactive programs for children and adults, live animals, music, food and entertainment.

An array of professionally designed and constructed educational exhibits related to water, energy and natural history will be unveiled at the opening event, and engaging demonstrations about environmental science will take place in the center's teaching laboratory.

The new Watershed Center supplements our 930-acre Watershed Reserve, which has served as our main classroom for decades of educational programming. Watershed summer campers and others engaged in our programs will learn and explore in our modern classrooms, Gorrie Hall, Discovery Room, science lab and GIS center.

New science and engineering content will supplement our traditional educational programming for schools and a new Watershed Academy will engage high school students seeking opportunities to assist the organization in its efforts to identify and address environmental problems in our region.

A leader in the protection of central New Jersey's water and environment for more than 65 years, the Watershed Association created the new center to provide a stronger platform from which to educate and advocate for new technologies, behaviors and policies to improve environmental stewardship. The center was designed by Farewell Architects to attain a LEED-Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

Planning is underway for continuing education programs in the new center for municipal engineers, landscaping professionals, planners and others to promote the strategies employed here.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New Grant Will Help Address Polluted Run-off

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has announced a \$300,000 grant to the Watershed to reduce stormwater runoff and associated pollutants such as pathogens, pesticides, floatables, and petroleum products in the Millstone River. The project is a means to help implement a new plan to clean up the Raritan River, which the Millstone empties into at the Borough of Manville (see cover story of the Fall 2014 Wellspring, available at <http://thewatershed.org/resource-center/newsletter/wellspring-archives/>.)

The Watershed will be working closely with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program, which will be completing a complementary project for the main branch of the Raritan River and portions of that river's headwaters.

The project will include a new assessment of impervious surfaces—hard surfaces like parking lots, roadways and rooftops that block water from percolating into the soil and “recharging” our aquifers. We will work with area municipalities to develop plans both to reduce these surfaces and to capture and treat stormwater that runs off these areas with rain gardens, vegetative buffers, and other strategies like those we have deployed at the new Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science and Education.

Within the Millstone River Watershed, there are approximately 31.6 square miles of impervious cover, which are estimated to produce 24 billion gallons of stormwater runoff each year. With climate change expected to result in more frequent storms of increasing intensity, this issue will only become more important over time.

Two Watershed Friends Leave Special Gifts

Our work to protect clean water and the natural environment depends on the generosity of many individuals and institutions. We lost two dear members of the Watershed family last year who thoughtfully included a generous gift to the organization in their will.



Robert C. “Bob” Johnston chaired the Watershed’s Board of Trustees between 1985 and 1988. A dedicated protector of open space who provided pro bono legal services to the Watershed for the purchase of several properties, Bob was also a founding board member of the D&R Greenway Land Trust.



Frank O. Henschel was a long time member of the Watershed Association and neighbor of the Watershed Reserve. Frank and his late wife Mary Lou were also volunteers for the organization. Frank had a passion for travel, visiting 110 countries on all seven continents.

We are grateful for these gifts and for their friendship.

For information on how you can include a gift to the Watershed Association in your will or living trust, please contact our development office at (609) 737-3735.

STREAMWATCH

Focus on Bear Brook

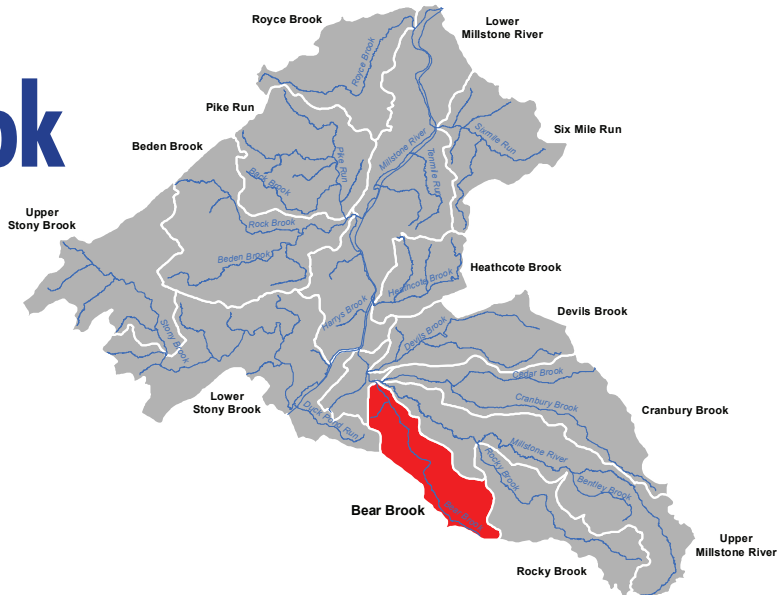
The Bear Brook subwatershed is comprised of 7,930 acres in the southcentral part of the Millstone River watershed. Originating from the Bear Brook Greenway in East Windsor, the brook winds its way through Robbinsville, West Windsor, and Plainsboro before joining up with the Millstone River near Princeton Junction. The area is primarily suburban, with some agricultural and industrial zones near the headwaters.

StreamWatch has monitored one chemical and biological site on Bear Brook since 1992. Overall the watershed is considered to be “fairly good” (see Scorecard), though monitoring has uncovered areas for improvement. Nitrate levels have remained low, below the State’s standard of 10 mg/



L. Phosphorus, on the other hand, has often far exceeded the recommended maximum of 0.1 mg/L. Therefore, a decrease in phosphorus in Bear Brook by reducing nonpoint source pollution loadings is a high priority project for the State. Dissolved oxygen (DO) has also been studied in the brook. While the NJDEP recorded low levels of DO before 2010, StreamWatch monitoring has recorded great improvements since then. StreamWatch pH measurements fell below the healthy range of 6.5 to 8.5 on several occasions, resulting in the classification of pH as “fairly good.” Finally, StreamWatch biological data has consistently shown that aquatic life in Bear Brook, specifically benthic macroinvertebrate populations, are moderately impaired. Many factors can cause macroinvertebrate populations to decline, including sedimentation, habitat loss, and low dissolved oxygen.

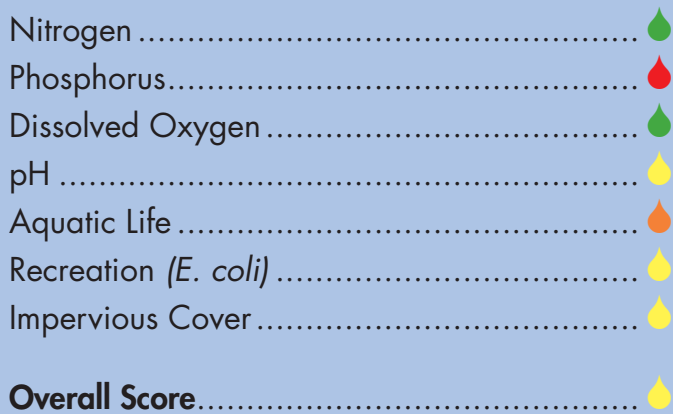
The NJDEP conducted bacteria sampling for *E. coli* during the summers of 2010 and 2014. The 2010 sampling round routinely detected levels of *E. coli* far above the State standard



StreamWatch data from 2010 to the present was used to calculate this scorecard, in addition to information provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to create the 2012 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

of 235 colonies per 100 milliliters of sample water. In 2014, Watershed Association staff assisted by collecting weekly water samples from two Bear Brook sites over five weeks. After several days of rain, one sampling event uncovered remarkably high levels of *E. coli*—between 2,400 and 11,100 colonies—ah the sites. Rainfall will often cause animal waste on land to flow into waterways, bringing fecal bacteria with it. Subsequent samples on dry and rainy days showed the bacteria had returned to appropriate levels. While it seems that the bacteria contamination is connected to stormwater runoff, there is still cause for concern and a need to eliminate its sources.

Scorecard



Rankings

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

Evolution

by Jeff Hoagland

The room had a slightly worn look to it. The white walls and trim were losing some of their luster and the carpet was mottled gray, harboring colors that had overtime infiltrated the fibers. There was a scent that seemed to indicate some significant history, a touch of toast perhaps, even coffee, and a hint of dust from another time and place. But the room was adorned with some proud and curious new embellishments. This was the Watershed Association's first Discovery Room, a harbinger of things to come.

In the spring of 1984, the Board Room in our stately white office building was transformed. Program Director Warren Elmer and Executive Director Jim Gaffney envisioned a space that could further educate members and visitors. Hand-made, quilted shades, crafted by volunteers, insulated the drafty old windows. There were rock and mineral specimens and geologic models; even a wooden puzzle of the soil types on our 535-acre Watershed Reserve. Visitors could pour water down a long stream table, covered with sand that eventually found its way to all corners of the room. A small collection of animals attracted young visitors as if all were magnetized.

As a predecessor of our GIS capabilities, two maps were crafted using multiple and interchangeable layers of transparent images. One tabletop map illustrated New Jersey over geologic time and another map, on the wall, much larger and quite cumbersome, showcased land use and other features within our watershed.

All of this was homemade. And ultimately, not particularly durable. The room was very cramped and sometimes, not accessible to visitors. But it was dynamic and incredibly exciting. I slipped into this organization at a time when there was a new and rising commitment being made to educate. Jack's magic seeds had been planted in fertile soil.

I was fortunate to play a role in shaping the next incarnations of a visitor/education center. The Buttinger Environmental Awareness Center opened just after Earth Day in 1989, representing a huge leap of faith for this organization. Now there was space, and significantly more polish, for a new array of exhibits, an expanded collection of animals, a reading room and a multi-purpose room. As program

volume increased, we expanded the Buttinger Center again, in 1995, under the direction of Executive Director Jamie Sapoch. This new incarnation included a dedicated classroom, a library, two Discovery Rooms, education staff offices, an expanded nature shop and a large conference room/art gallery/music hall. Ah, the music.

The Buttinger Center hosted hundreds of school groups, thousands of families and hundreds of thousands of visitors. The center, and the people who worked and volunteered there, deeply touched the lives of many of these people. This is just part of our lasting legacy.

*inclement weather
reaching quorum
with the snake and turtle*

With the passage of time, the sheer volume of visitors took its toll. The sheen of what we represented never tarnished, but the building slowly became tattered and outdated. Under the leadership of Executive Director Jim Waltman, we now move into a new era.

I'm excited about all the new elements of our Watershed Center, a building designed to dramatically reduce our environmental footprint. There are dozens of features that contribute to our LEED Certification. There is a teaching laboratory and an expanded GIS lab. Two large classrooms. New, modern, crisp exhibits, with some familiar faces.

But honestly, I am most excited to share this new chapter with the Watershed family of staff, volunteers, members and friends *under one roof* just like when I began here, in a different era, and a lifetime ago. My mind and heart carry the accumulation of over thirty years of memories. Please join us, share your memories of our past, and help us create new ones.

Camp Grows in Our New Center



rain gardens and a green roof to reduce storm water; and features a Sustainability Trail that showcases many of our other environmental components. Campers will engage directly with our water and energy conservation features daily. Campers may also monitor weather data using our new weather station and dashboard.

In the science laboratory, campers will use microscopes and dissecting scopes to examine nature up close, looking at the structure of plants or insects, and investigating the hidden world of microscopic life. Older campers will even visit the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center, exploring how data informs the maps we use.

With all the new and expanded features of Watershed Nature Camp this year, you are sure to find something for *your* camper. For more information, check out our camp brochure online at <http://thewatershed.org/education/summer-camp/> or give us a call at (609) 737-7592.

Water you doing this summer? Treat your children or grandchildren to a week or more of Watershed Nature Camp.

There is *so much more* to love this year, with campers set to inhabit our *new*, state-of-the-art Watershed Center. We've also reinstated Before & After Care to accommodate your busy schedule and expanded camp to include even more weeks.

With the new center as "base camp," your campers will spend time each day exploring the breathtaking 930-acre Watershed Reserve. Interactive exhibits will engage campers, teaching them about the geography and geology of our watershed, the ecology of our Reserve and the denizens of our local waterways. As in the past, campers will meet our resident creatures up close weekly.

The LEED-certified Watershed Center offers campers unique opportunities to learn about environmental design. The building utilizes solar and geothermal energy, which can be monitored daily on our dashboard; employs

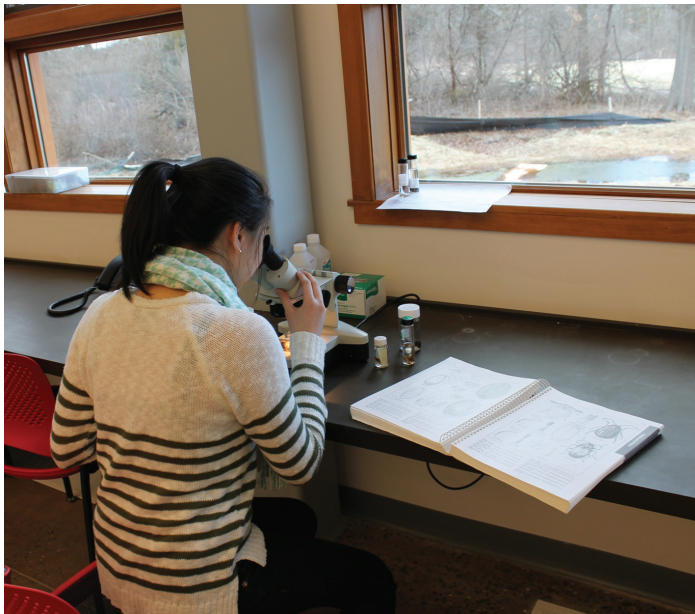


NEW PROGRAM FOR TEENS

Summer Watershed Academy

This summer we are excited to introduce our first annual Watershed Academy, engaging high school students entering their sophomore, junior and senior years in a weeklong environmental investigation. The Academy is for students who are motivated to build on their experiences at Watershed Nature Camp, and/or high school science and environmental classes. The Academy will provide a more focused and academic approach to investigating issues within our environment.

Utilizing the Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science and Education as a teaching platform, students will learn basic principles of civil and environmental engineering to investigate the causes and problems associated with



storm water runoff. Students will develop and utilize STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills as they examine the causes and measure the impacts of this serious problem facing our streams, our drinking water supplies and the environment. Community experts will engage the students as they examine a variety of solutions implemented here at the Watershed Center and at other community locations. Ultimately, students will apply this knowledge in order to alleviate this issue at one or more problem sites in the community.



Central to the Summer Watershed Academy is the opportunity to explore the many environmental features utilized in our new Watershed Center. Students will have the opportunity to examine some of these features closely, talk to designers and engineers who installed these features, and apply newly gained knowledge to solve problems elsewhere in their environment. The Academy will utilize the 1,200-square foot science laboratory and the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Center during their investigations.

“We are excited to offer this new opportunity for students who are motivated to make a difference for our region’s environment,” said Watershed Education Director Jeff Hoagland. Additional information and instructions on registering for the Watershed Academy are located on thewatershed.org.

2015 Spring Calendar

Registration is required and space is limited in all programs, unless stated otherwise. Call 609-737-7592 or bnc@thewatershed.org to register.

Unless stated otherwise, all programs meet at the new Watershed Center
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 indicated by *, include

Arts Council of Princeton, The Haiku Foundation, Hopewell Environmental Commission

Family and Adult Programs

Registration required for all programs.

APRIL 15, 29, MAY 13 AND 27

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

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

Start your spring day off right with a walk on the Watershed Reserve trails with Teacher-Naturalist Allison Jackson. Allison's well-trained eye and experience will help you better observe seasonal changes and enjoy all the benefits of being outdoors. Walks will happen rain or shine so dress appropriately for seasonal temperatures and muddy walking conditions. Binoculars, camera and nature journal are encouraged.

APRIL 18 AND MAY 16

2015 Watershed Nature Camp Open House

Saturday, 2:00–4:00PM, Families, FREE

Kids aged 3–16 and their families can meet Camp Director Tammy Love in our new Watershed Center, learn about our camp and register for this summer! Registration for any of the Open Houses is not required. Drop-ins are welcome.

APRIL 11 AND 18

Stream Clean-Ups

Saturdays, Adults and Families, Free

Help keep the waterways of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed clean and healthy! Join us to pick up trash at a stream in your town or nearby community. Times and locations are listed on thewatershed.org.

APRIL 16

Project WET— Educators Workshop on Water

Thursday, 9:00AM–3:00PM, Adults, \$20 per person

Explore this innovative interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on water. Educational activities cover topics such as properties of water, aquatic wildlife and ecosystems, water quality and quantity issues, and water management strategies. This workshop will combine classroom instruction with field activities. Examine the innovative water management features of our new Watershed Center. Participants receive Project WET Activity Guide (520 pages) and professional development credit. Fee includes morning refreshments and light lunch. Appropriate for formal and informal educators, scout leaders and home school parents.



**APRIL 18****International Haiku Poetry Day Ginko***

Saturday, 3:30–6:00PM, Adults and teens, Free

Join Education Director and haiku poet Jeff Hoagland on a ginko, a haiku walk, in celebration of this traditional Japanese form of poetry, with its luminous focus on nature. We will begin with a brief exploration of the haiku tradition, and finish with some light refreshments. Adults and teens are welcome regardless of experience. Bring a favorite book to share and a journal to write in.

APRIL 24**Frog Slog Night Hike**

Friday, 8:00–10:00PM, Adults and Families (children 6yo+), \$10M/\$15NM

Discover the secret life of frogs on a special late night hike with Education Director Jeff Hoagland at the soggy and sonic Wargo pond on the Watershed Reserve. Come with sharp ears and eyes, as well as a flashlight. Boots are necessary; be prepared for wet and muddy walking conditions. Space is limited.

APRIL 25**Build a Rain Barrel Workshop***

Saturday, 1:00–3:00PM, Families, \$50 per barrel

Watershed Ambassador Rachel McGovern will teach you how to capture and reuse rain water in your home garden with a rain barrel. Examine the innovative water management features of our new Watershed Center, before constructing your own rain barrel with guidance. Bring your barrel home to begin the water savings immediately! Fee includes ALL materials—registration and prepayment are required.

APRIL 27**Annual Meeting**

Monday, 5:30–7:30PM, Members (Adults), Free

Join Watershed Staff and Trustees as we thank our outgoing Trustees, celebrate the prior year's accomplishments, honor contributions in the fields of conservation and education, and elect new Trustees of the organization.

MAY 2**Grand Opening**

Saturday, 11:00AM–3:00PM, Adults and Families, Free

Join us for the Grand Opening of the new Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science and Education. See cover story for more information.

Creative workshops with instructors from the Arts Council of Princeton and conducted at the Watershed Center. Register at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org or call 609-924-8777.

MAY 9**Eco-Printing on Fabric**

Saturday, 10:00AM–3:30PM, 15yo–Adult, \$50M/\$60NM

Learn how to imbed the natural pigments found only in nature into fabric. Participants will look at the endless opportunities for personal expression and then venture outdoors for a short Naturalist-led walk on the Watershed Reserve trails to collect leaves, nuts, berries, bark, flowers and other items for use in the studio—forming a dye bath and creating “prints” to make one-a-kind wearable art! Have fun discovering the surprising colors and saturation of certain natural elements. A materials fee of \$15.00, paid directly to the instructor, will cover the cost of other supplies. Bring a refillable water bottle and bag lunch to enjoy while lingering with fellow artists. No experience is needed, all levels are welcome.

MAY 30**Plein Air Painting**

Saturday, 10:00AM–2:00PM, 16yo–Adult, \$50M/\$60NM

Explore the popular 19th century tradition of watercolor painting outdoors (en plein air). Participants will discover the quality of natural light and how it changes over time, explore how color defines forms, learn how to represent natural colors, experiment with brush strokes and create textures. The instructor will offer suggestions to each person individually during the session, then near the end of class time, the group will meet together to share their work and the day's painting experience. The workshop begins with a short Naturalist-led walk on the Watershed Reserve trails. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy while lingering with fellow artists.

Check out the NEW Saturday Art Sampler for children 6–11 years old in the Children's Program section.

Children's Programs

Registration required for all programs.

Check out the NEW programs for 2015! Classes conducted at the Watershed Center, unless stated otherwise. Registration is required for all programs.

Spring Preschool 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.

APRIL 14 & 15—Fur, Feathers, Skin

APRIL 21 & 22—Spring Green

APRIL 28 & 29—Animal Aerobics

MAY 5 & 6—Fragile Beginnings

MAY 12 & 13—Wiggly Worms

MAY 19 & 20—Frogs and Toads

MAY 26 & 27—Dandy Dandelions

**JUNE 2 & 3—One Bird, Two Bird,
Red Bird, Bluebird**

JUNE 9 & 10—Meet the Beetles

NEW—Spring After School Classes

*Tuesdays, 4:15–5:30PM, Class fee per child: \$10M/\$15NM
Register and pay for 4 classes, receive a 5th class free.*

Children 6–10 years old will explore the Reserve with one of the Teacher-Naturalists. Outdoor discoveries, hikes, seasonal surprises await you each week! Class size is limited.

APRIL 14—Spring Explorations

APRIL 21—Weather Watchers

APRIL 28—Web of Life

MAY 5—Nature's Camouflage

MAY 12—Birds and Nesting

MAY 19—Wild Wildflowers

MAY 26—Insect Safari

**JUNE 2—Pond Exploration: Around the
Pond (Meet at Wargo Pond)**

**JUNE 9—Pond Exploration: In the Pond
(Meet at Wargo Pond)**



APRIL 6–10

Spring Fling Mini-Camp

*Monday–Friday, 9:30AM–4:00PM, children 6–12 years old
Fee per day per child: \$75M/\$90NM; sibling/multi-day
discounts and extended care available*

Sign up for one day or all week! Spend spring school break with your friends and the Teacher-Naturalists, exploring the trails on the Reserve, building shelters in the woods, walking to the pond or stream, and enjoying a daily afternoon campfire with marshmallow roast. The Watershed Center will be 'home base' but children spend the entire day exploring outdoors. Registration is required.



NEW—Saturday Art Sampler

Saturdays, 10:00–11:30AM—children 6–8 years old;
Fee per class: \$20M/\$30NM

Saturdays, 1:00–3:00PM—children 9–11 years old;
Fee per class: \$25M/\$35NM

Register for 1, 2 or all 3 classes! Classes meet at the Watershed Center, all instructors provided by the Arts Council of Princeton. Register at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org or call 609-924-8777.

APRIL 11—Magic of Monet

Libby Ramage, instructor

Create artwork inspired by the work of Claude Monet and his paintings from his gardens in Giverny. Libby will lead the students in completing a mural that will hang in the Watershed Center.

APRIL 18—Focus on Flowers

Debbie Gwazda, instructor

We will take a close-up look at flowers (magnifying glasses and all!) and gain inspiration from American painter Georgia O'Keeffe as well as the natural beauty of plant life on the Watershed Reserve.

APRIL 25—Avian Art: Birds in Nature and the Studio

Susan Hoenig, instructor

Students will use birds as inspiration for their own fantastic feathered 3D creations using mixed media.

APRIL 20, MAY 4, MAY 18 AND JUNE 1

Tiny Tot Walk with Miss Allison

Mondays, 10:30–11:30AM, children 18–36 months
with an adult, Series Fee: \$30M/\$40NM

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 spring weather—we always go outside. Boots, hat and gloves might be necessary. Class size is limited and registration for entire 4-week series is required. All children must be walking and accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 27, MAY 11, JUNE 8

NEW—Drop-in Days/Lunch with a Naturalist

Mondays, 11:30AM–12:30PM, Families, \$5 per child

Parents and children 5–10 years old—pack your lunch and join one of the Teacher-Naturalists for a nature-themed lunch! Enjoy your lunch with us in the Watershed Center or outdoors (weather permitting) coupled with a nature mini-lesson and a hands-on activity. We will send you home with ideas to explore and projects to tackle for further enrichment. Each lunch/learn will whet your appetite as we take a peek at a different environmental topic. Registration not required, drop-ins are welcome!



MAY 9

NEW—Engineering with the Sun— Passive Solar Models

Saturday, 9:30AM–12:00PM, children 8–12 years old,
\$15M/\$20NM

Design a house and build a model utilizing what we know about the sun's journey across the sky, through the day and through the seasons. How would you design a building to capture the sun's energy? Do you always want to maximize the sun's energy? After examining our new Watershed Center, children will work collaboratively and on their own to build individual models of their passive solar house. Parents of participants are invited to join the tour of our new Watershed Center at the beginning of this program.

2014 Individual Donations

The Watershed Association is grateful for the donations made by the following individuals in 2014. Without your support, our work protecting clean water and the environment would not be possible.

Muriel Buttinger Society \$5,000+

Mary & Richard Benioff
Lisi Bromley & Dougin Walker and
The Darwin Foundation
Lori & Neil Citrone
Barbie & Chris Cole
Tracy & Dan Dart
Anna Drago
Robbie & Shawn Ellsworth and
The Rosso-Maguire Fund of the
Princeton Area Community Foundation
Dr. John W. & Alison Flemer Family
Deborah Sands Gartenberg
Sophie & Curtis Glovier
Meg & Tom Gorrie
Gordon & Llura Gund and
The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation
Laura & Alex Hanson and
The Alex and Laura Hanson CGF, Inc.
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The Harris Fund of the Princeton Area
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The Emily & John Harvey Foundation
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Stony Brook Circle \$2,500-\$4,999

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Maeryn & William Roebing
Nancy Ross & Bill Carmean
Patricia Shanley & Christopher Barr
Myra & Van Williams
Robert Wilson and the Pheasant Hill
Foundation, Inc.

McAlpin Society \$1,000-\$2,499

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Isabel & Charles Baker
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Marshall Bartlett Family Foundation, Inc.
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Liz Cutler & Tom Kreutz
Nisha & Joel Dearborn
Lindy Eiref
Joan Emerick
Wendy Pierce Evans & Larry Evans
Linda & Steven Gecha
Mrs. Walter Gips (deceased) and
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Katharine Kinsolving & Richard Baumann
Mary & Charles Leck
Cathy & David Loevner
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Hella & Scott McVay and The Hella &
Scott McVay Fund of the Princeton Area
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Joyce Carol Oates & Charles Gross
Judy & Oye Olukotun
Maryann & Thomas Polefka
Susan & Cornell Rudov
Lorraine Sciarra
Inez & Dick Scribner
Gustav L. Stewart, III and The Sarah S. McAlpin
Fund of the New York Community Trust
Gail & Richard Ullman
Nancy & James Utaski
Daniel Van Abs



Barbie Cole, Jim Waltman,
Peter Gibson and Meg Gorrie

Happy & Jack Wallace
Alicia & Jim Waltman
Louise & John Wellemeyer
Sally Wells
Heidi Wilenius & Scot Pannepacker
Catherine Williams & Bryan Grenfell

Millstone River Society \$500-\$999

Blair & Bill Ayers
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Barbie & Ted Bromley and The Bromley Family
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Katharine Brush
Katherine & Mark Carmichael
Victory & Ted Chase
Dalen Cole
Samantha & Frank Condon
Brenda & Swep Davis
Marion & Steven Davis
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Gibson Children and The Wallace-Gibson
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The Rush Holt & Margaret Lancefield Fund
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Yolanda Whitman McPhee & John McPhee
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Laura & Stefan Ochalski
Martha & Michael O'Connor
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Fund of the Princeton Area Community
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Judith Pollack & James Ohls
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Tricia & Norm Rosenthal
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Grace & Frank Sinden
Alexandria Symos & Stephen Klopfer
Amie Thornton
Susan Travers
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and George Vaughn Fund of the Princeton
Area Community Foundation
Diana & John Waltman
Caroline & Helmut Weymar and
Twin Chimney, Inc.



Dick Scribner and Debbie
Sands Gartenberg

Elizabeth & William Wolfe
Fidelma & Bill Woodley
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The Watershed Association extends our special gratitude to the more than 300 individual and institutional donors to our "Pass It On" campaign, whose contributions made our new Watershed Center possible.

MORE PROGRAMS ON THE WAY

Language of Nature

The inaugural class of Watershed Citizen Naturalists has begun their journey to learn the *Language of Nature!* Under the tutelage of local college and university professors, up to fifteen lifelong learners and self-proclaimed naturalists will convene weekly in the new Watershed Center to deepen their knowledge of, and take a closer look at, our natural world.

Dr. Luke Butler from The College of New Jersey kicked off our year of classes with a six-week long series entitled “Understanding and Identifying Birds of New Jersey” in mid-March. Classroom instruction and field study have been combined to present a full picture of the topic. Adult students are delving deep into bird identification as well as avian evolution and morphology, taxonomy and bird behavior. Current bird conservation efforts locally and globally will also be covered. Three Saturday field trips to explore a variety of habitats are helping students better understand birds.

Future topics in the *Language of Nature* series are “Plants and Wildflowers of Woods, Fields and Roadsides”, “Insects of New Jersey” and “Trees of New Jersey”. The *Language of Nature* courses offer in-depth coverage of popular topics in

Identifying and Understanding Birds of New Jersey	Plants and Wild Flowers of Woods, Fields and Roadsides	Insects of New Jersey	The Trees of New Jersey And Their Lives (Woods, Stream Corridors and Parks)
March 12–April 18 Dr. Luke K. Butler, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology, TCNJ	May 5–June 20 Laura A. Hyatt, PhD; Associate Professor of Biology, Rider University	Sept. 9–Oct. 14 Amy Iseneker Ricco, Associate Professor, Mercer County Community College	October–November Detailed Info Coming Soon!
			

an intimate classroom size with knowledgeable instructors, free from the pressure of tests, papers and projects. Adults who complete all four of the courses will earn their “Citizen Naturalist” certificate from the Watershed Association as well as a Watershed fleece vest! Completion of all four courses can be extended over more than one year. For more information and instructions on how to register, visit thewatershed.org or call 609-737-7592.

Watershed Welcomes Pam Newitt, Volunteer Coordinator

The Watershed is pleased to welcome Pam Newitt to the staff as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Pam holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Maryland and has been an interpretive naturalist since 1989. Pam has worked with the Watershed as a Preschool Naturalist Teacher and currently serves as a trustee of the Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve. As the Volunteer Coordinator, Pam oversees a dedicated group of individuals interested in advancing the mission of the Watershed. For volunteer opportunities please e-mail Pam at pnewitt@thewatershed.org.



PennEast Pipeline

Since our last newsletter, PennEast has continued to move forward in their press to obtain a certificate of need from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They are currently in the ‘scoping’ phase of the process, in which FERC’s environmental consultant solicits public comment on the environmental, historic, socioeconomic and other issues that should be investigated and evaluated as part of an Environmental Impact Statement. (Our comments are posted on our website.)

PennEast has announced a new ‘preferred route.’ The new route would not cross the Stony Brook, as the original proposal did, and parts of the new route are co-located along other utility rights of way—land that, presumably,

has already been impacted. However, the new route would still damage numerous category one streams, wetlands and forests.

In addition to reviewing the proposed route to prepare our comments for the scoping hearings, we have been actively meeting with state and federal legislators and agencies to engage them in the issue. We are working with other organizations to garner support for a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) which would review the environmental impacts of all of FERC’s natural gas policies and pending pipelines, and not just evaluate each pipeline in isolation. Please contact Mike Pisauro to get involved (mpisauro@thewatershed.org).

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For more information visit: thewatershed.org
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