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## **River is Healthy According to Stream Critters**

By Nicole Rahman, Program Director

On Saturday, November 11, 2006, we presented the results of the 2006 river monitoring season at Echo Hill Environmental Education Area.

This was the 13<sup>th</sup> year of collecting biological data at 18 sites along the South Branch of the Raritan River and its tributaries. Every June trained volunteers collect a macroinvertebrate, or "bug" sample at their assigned sites along the river. They follow specific protocols to maintain accuracy and precision in the data collection. This bug sample is analyzed at a certified lab. The species of bugs present tells us whether the river is healthy or not. Certain bugs can live in polluted water, but others cannot. If you find a large number and variety types of bugs that need clean water to survive, you know you have a healthy river.

Of the 18 sites monitored this year, 14 were non-impaired, four were moderately impaired, and none were severely impaired. This is similar to last year's results of 15 non-impaired and three moderately impaired.

The EPA has provided a \$20,000 grant to prepare a comprehensive report analyzing and documenting trends in river health. The report is due by the end of March 2007. With 13 years of data collected so far, it will be interesting to see any trends in water quality that may be present.

A presentation about "Hatches of the South Branch" was the highlight of the event, presented by Jim Holland, co-owner of Shannon's Fly & Tackle in Califon, and Michael McAuliffe, a guide for Shannon's. They shared many interesting facts about mayflies and stoneflies, fish preferences for certain species at certain times of the day and year, and the types of artificial flies to use for the best catch. The event concluded with a fly tying demonstration by Charlie Bates, also a guide for Shannon's.



Charlie Bates and the Art of Fly Tying

Thanks to all of the volunteers, monitoring advisory committee members, spring workshop trainers, and sponsors.

These dedicated people make the monitoring program possible.

For more information, or to become a volunteer monitor, please contact Nicole Rahman, Program Director, at 908-782-0422 ext. 14, or visit the website at [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org).

Check out our web site at [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org).

After you read this newsletter, please pass it on to a friend or neighbor and ask them to join us as SBWA members. Thank you.



## **MEMBERS: You Are the Most Important Part of Our Mission**

By Bill Kibler, Executive Director

I hope you look forward to *The Current*. We enjoy sharing news with you of some the things we're doing to protect your water, to protect your health, and to protect your watershed. May I ask you to do something for your watershed?

You're already doing one of the most important things you can do: supporting the SBWA through your membership! We are committed to protecting your clean water and your health. Help us by supporting the SBWA. Make a commitment to invite at least one of your friends or neighbors to join SBWA this year. If every member brings in just one new member, we will double our membership! And make a commitment this year to upgrade your level of membership.

Let me tell you why membership is so important. The importance of financial support to the organization may seem obvious. Investing in the SBWA means investing in our education program, which brings science, computer skills, and an interest in the outdoors to our school kids. Investing in the SBWA means investing in our children, our future.

Investing in the SBWA means investing in our well testing and river monitoring programs. It means investing in stream restoration. It means investing in programs that directly affect the quality, quantity, and reliability of your water supply.

Investing in the SBWA means investing in our partnerships. It means leveraging your investment because we're part of a team of governmental agencies, non-profits, municipalities, and others, all working together to protect and improve your environment.

Let me address a myth that I've been asked about many times. Nobody, absolutely nobody, does what we do, right here where you live. If your neighbor thinks they don't need to join the SBWA because "there must be a governmental agency that does that," please tell them (politely) they're wrong. For example, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection conducts biological monitoring of the South Branch once every five years. The SBWA conducts biological monitoring in 18 sites throughout our watershed every single year, and we're actively working to add more sites. We are the only show in town. And our watershed is our only concern.

Membership is important in another context. Frankly, membership is the currency of non-profit advocacy. When I testify before a municipal planning board, when I testify in front of the Highlands Council, when we send comments to DEP on proposed regulations, when we write to elected officials, our strength is in our membership. You are our muscle. Let's face it — we don't have the cash clout of a developer appearing before a planning board, or an industry lobbying in Trenton. But, what we have is just as important — we have our membership. And the larger our membership base, the stronger our position.

Your membership is very important. The membership of every family in this watershed is important. And the membership of every single person who uses the watershed is important, whether they're drinking our water, enjoying our recreational opportunities, or doing business here.

Find one friend or neighbor (or both), and tell them a little about the SBWA. Earth Day is a great time to do that, or during our beautiful spring and summer. Give them our web page address. Invite them to contact us. Or better yet, give them a membership flyer. Call or e-mail us and we'll be happy to send you new, full-color brochures to give to your friends and neighbors.

I know it can be difficult to approach people about something like this. But you're not doing it for yourself, you're doing it for them! You're giving them a golden opportunity to invest in an organization that will pay dividends every time they open a faucet! That's an opportunity you can't let your friends miss out on!



## Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner on March 23

All members of SBWA are cordially invited to attend the 2007 Annual Dinner and Meeting on Friday, March 23. The meeting will be at the *Mangia Bene* restaurant located on Route 202/31 in Flemington, from 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. The cost of the buffet dinner is \$30 per person for SBWA members, \$35 for non-members.

The special guest speaker will be from the Mercer County Wildlife Center. This center rehabilitates sick and injured native wildlife and releases the rehabilitated animals back into a suitable wild habitat. Some permanently disabled animals remain at the center and help the center educate the public about New Jersey's native fauna. We don't know which of the wildlife ambassadors will attend the meeting.

For more information about, and tickets for the dinner, please call 908-782-0422 ext. 10.

## 17th Annual Spring River Clean-Up on April 21

We will hold our 17th Annual Spring River Clean-Up on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to help clean up the river and surrounding land throughout the entire watershed from Budd Lake in Mount Olive Township to the confluence in Branchburg. Come join us and spend the morning making your community sparkle!

Anyone can participate! Individuals, scouts, schools, churches, and senior citizen groups are just some of the groups that have participated in the past. Please contact Nicole Rahman at 908-782-0422 ext 14.

## MARK YOUR 2007 CALENDAR

**Community Well Testing** — Check our web site for dates.

**Hunterdon County Green Table Schedule** (All meetings are 8 to 10 a.m. at Echo Hill Park Environmental Center unless otherwise noted.)

**January 25** — "Multi-Use Trails, Equestrian Groups Round Table"

**March 22** — "Land Conservation Status and Strategies"

**May 24th at the Dvoor Farm** — "Stream Restoration in Hunterdon County Parks"

Also a tour of the Dvoor Farm and Mine Brook Park completed and planned stream restoration projects.

**SBWA Annual Meeting and Dinner — March 23.** See article above.

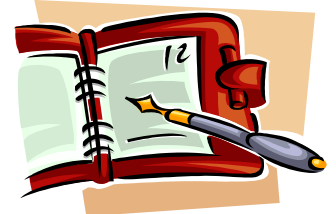
**Earth Share Celebrates New Jersey — March 23.** Check earthsharenj.org for details. Tell your friends who are not attending our Annual meeting that they should support this Earth Share event. SBWA is a member of Earth Share.

**Annual Stream Clean-Up Day — April 21.** See article above and check our website for more details.

**Hunterdon County Parks Earth Day Celebration—April 21.** At Deer Path Park from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Check our website for more details.

**Ride for the River Fundraiser — May 19.** See article on page 8.

Visit the Calendar page on the SBWA web site at [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org) for dates of other meetings and events throughout the year.



Mark your day to volunteer at SBWA. Please check the SBWA web site for a list of opportunities.



## October 2006 Annual Wine Tasting

The Seventh Annual Wine Tasting was held on Sunday, October 15th, at the Clinton Rescue Squad in Clinton, NJ. The SBWA wine tasting benefit is a major fundraiser for the SBWA, and all proceeds benefit our environmental protection efforts.

This year's event was sponsored by Clinton Wine and Spirits, and hors d'oeuvres by Pru Thai restaurant of Clinton. Twenty-five wine distributors provided wines from the United States, France, Italy, Australia, and other popular wine producing countries.

A silent auction was held offering diverse gifts from a Gourmet dinner for 10 served in your home, a Key West Sport Fishing Trip with lodging, professional photographs of South Branch Ken Lockwood Gorge, and many more surprises. Tickets were drawn for large bottles of wine.



Wine at the Clinton Rescue Squad



Some of the Delighted Tasters



Bill Kibler, SBWA Executive Director, flanked by SBWA Trustees Pat Stover (l.) and Johannah Weinhofer



A Happy Winner!



More Happy Winners!



Another Happy Winner (r.) with SBWA Trustee Amy Greene

### Special Thanks To...

- Phyllis Shapiro — donating a laptop computer.
- Teresa Mancini — donating a color TV/VCR combo.
- Liz Dransfield — painting the bathroom.
- Everyone who helped make the Wine Tasting a success!!
- Jim Holland, Michael McAuliffe, and Charlie Bates from Shannon's Fly Shop in Califon — presenting "Hatches of the South Branch" at the volunteer biological monitoring conference.
- Nine volunteers from J&J Pharmaceutical Research and Development US — spruced up the SBWA office and grounds as part of Hunterdon County United Way's Day of Caring. Some of the things they accomplished were mulching the trail to the office, painting the outdoor stair rail, creating a garden area, weeding, polyurethaning the entryway porch, vacuuming, cleaning windows, and painting the meeting room floor.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS *October 1, 2006 to January 1, 2007*

Edward and Valerie Burns  
William and Eleanor Fraser

Elizabeth Lynch  
John Mitsopoulos

David Pfurr  
Thomas and Sharon Skibbee

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members. Please call us if you need information or have a concern about water quality or potential threats to our watershed.

Also, please stop by our office to learn about volunteer opportunities. We want you to help us continue our important work.

### To All Our Members: Are your friends and neighbors members?

Recruit new members and receive free gifts! We can help you convince your friends and neighbors that membership in SBWA means helping to preserve a healthy watershed for the future. We have membership kits for prospective members that we can send to you or directly to your friend or neighbor. Please call us at 908-782-0422 or e-mail us at [info@sbwa.org](mailto:info@sbwa.org). See article on page 7 for details on free gifts.

## Welcome SBWA's New Director of Development and Member Relations

Lynn Becker joined SBWA on November 7, 2006 as Director of Development and Member Relations. After 25 years with AT&T and Lucent Technologies, Lynn transitioned into the non-profit sector, both as a volunteer and professionally. She held the position of Executive Director for the Association of Pet Dog Trainers; Product Development and Management Association; and Liberty Humane Society. She is on the Board of the Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America and has served on the Boards of St. Hubert's Animal Welfare and Education Center in Morristown, and Friends of Homeless Animals in Princeton. She also volunteers for the Women's Crisis Services of Hunterdon County.



Lynn lives in Flemington and enjoys walking the trails in our Watershed with her husband, Bud, and her two dogs, Stars and Mazie.

**SBWA STAFF:** **Bill Kibler**, Executive Director; **Nicole Rahman**, Program Director; **Ellen Cronan**, Watershed Project Manager; **Lynn Becker**, Director of Development and Member Relations; **Dee Ely**, Office Manager; and **Mary Licetti**, Accounting.

**2006 OFFICERS:** *President:* James Hill                      *Vice President:* Johannah Weinhofer  
*Secretary:* Patricia Stover                      *Treasurer:* Ken Jagel

**2006 TRUSTEES:** Dave Clapp, Raymond Drake, Karen Elbert, Oliver Elbert, Amy S. Greene, John Madden, Kathy Madden, Elizabeth (Tish) Plum, Fred Puelle, Kay Serebrakian, Sam Stothoff, and John Williamson

Contact SBWA at 908-782-0422 or e-mail us at [info@sbwa.org](mailto:info@sbwa.org).



### Thank You to All Contributors to Our End of Year Appeal (as of January 6, 2007)

\$1,000 +

The Cassa Family Fund for Charitable Giving

Dodge Foundation  
Ilona and Terrence English

The Large Foundation  
The Stover Foundation

\$500—\$999

Exxon Mobil

Ronald W. Subber Charitable Fund

\$250—\$499

Oliver and Karen Elbert

Richard Zimmer and Marty  
Goodspeed

Sam and Verna Stothoff

\$100—\$249

Adam Ambielli

Raymond Drake

Barbara Bemelmans

Eugenia Bishop

Mitchel and Ruth Feldman  
Frederick and Gael Gardner

Jim and Sharon Hill

Frank and Joan Hooper

David and Billie McFadden

Tish Plum

John and Sandra Williamson

Bob and Barbara Wolfe

Michael P. Yannell

\$1—\$99

John and Linda Beckley

Roger and Erika Bergquist

Jo Coudert

John and Jean Feike

Jon and Marilyn Fineman

Les Hamilton

Leroy Harms

Nancy L. Held

Ken and Millie Jagel

Richard and Olga Kallok

Stephen and Greta Kenney

Matilda Krebs

Joanna Lewin

Mr. and Mrs. John B. MacChesney

Leonard and Teresa Martin

Karl and Veronica Mausser

Robert and Patricia Meyer

Johanna Miele

John and Patricia Miller

Cathy Monblatt

Paul and Irene Morrongiello

Christine Nenna

Jackie Parrinello

Sandy Polk

Raymond and Barbara Rush

Todd Schanbaum

William and Tara Scherder

Lillian Snyder

Raymond Somers

Kate Spann and Kevin Rudolph

Jim and Aimee Swain

William J. Taylor and

Vassie C. Ware

Mr. And Mrs. Carl Turner

Reinhard and Waltraut Wegner



### Three New Ways to Help SBWA

#### Buy a Book.

The *Art of Framing*, in the Flemington Glass Complex at 152 Main Street in Flemington, has a special offer to support the SBWA. *For a limited time*, purchase a copy of "FISH: 77 Great Fish of North America" with paintings by Flick Ford and text by Dean Travis Clarke, and the Art of Framing will make a donation to the SBWA. For more details, go to the Art of Framing web site ([www.artofframing.net](http://www.artofframing.net) — link through the Events page to page 2 of the Holiday 2006 Newsletter). This is an easy way to help the SBWA. You buy a great book and we get some extra money.

#### Use GoodSearch as your search engine.

It's simple. You use GoodSearch.com just like any other search engine — the site is powered by Yahoo! And each time you do, money is generated for SBWA and its programs. Last year, search engines generated close to \$6 billion in revenue from advertisers. With GoodSearch, part of this advertising revenue will now be directed to SBWA. We hope that not only will you use GoodSearch as your main search engine from now on, but that you will tell your family and friends about GoodSearch. The more people who use this search engine, the more money SBWA will receive.



#### Donate a Vehicle (including Motorcycles).

SBWA is now participating in a vehicle donation program that generates funds for the association and allows you to make a tax-deductible donation to SBWA. The program is managed by Vehicle Management Services, a local company that handles all of the logistics and paperwork. For more details on the program and/or to donate a vehicle, call toll-free 888-395-3955 or visit [www.vehiclemanagementservices.com](http://www.vehiclemanagementservices.com). Make more space in your garage, and help your watershed!



## Membership and Development – Perfect Together

By Lynn Becker , Director of Development and Member Relations

I didn't determine the title of this article just because my title is Director of Development and Member Relations...it's the link between the two that I want to explore with you. Bill's letter stresses the importance of membership in SBWA — both to the Association and to you. He also emphasizes the impact that an increased membership can have on our ability to carry out our mission: to protect the water resources of the South Branch of the Raritan River and its watershed.

Being a member of an association yields various benefits. It also implies a certain level of interest in, and responsibility for, that association's success. The definition of "association" is "an organization of people with a common purpose and having a formal structure." Our common purpose is clear, it is our mission statement. However, it may not always be clear that there is a "formal structure" that enables us to pursue that common purpose. The SBWA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. What that means for you is that you can make tax-deductible contributions to SBWA; what that means for us is that we must raise the funds to provide the programs and services that we provide to the public.

That brings us to the sometimes unpopular topic of fundraising, which is just one element of development. Especially in a membership-driven organization, development includes the responsibility for identifying and inviting new members, educating them about the activities of "their association," involving them in the delivery of programs and services, asking them for financial support, demonstrating that their fees and other contributions are put to good use, and most importantly, recognizing and thanking them for their gifts of time and money. This is why SBWA has chosen to highlight the Member Relations aspect of my position, one that I most look forward to.

One of my first Member Relations initiatives is to get you involved in increasing the number of members that SBWA can serve. We are launching a **Member-Get-A-Member Campaign** for 2007. You can help make this campaign a success by inviting at least five new people to join SBWA. If all five of those people join in 2007, your **next annual membership fee will be free!** If you help recruit three new members, you will receive an SBWA golf umbrella. If you help one new member join SBWA, you will get an SBWA key chain pen. In all cases, you will get the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference in our ability to protect and preserve one of our most valuable natural resources — water.

### Wish List...

- Computer – Desktop – minimum 1 GHz Processor, 512 MB RAM, 80 GB Hard Drive (for GIS applications)
- Computers - Laptop - Pentium 3 equivalent or greater
- Copies of "A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America" by J. Reese Voshell, Jr., 2002, McDonald and Woodward Pub. Co., ISBN 0939923874
- External Hard Drive – 80 GB or larger
- LCD/Video projectors (for PowerPoint presentations)
- Microsoft Office 2000, XP, or 2003 - original CDs with license
- Microsoft Windows 2000, XP, or 2003 - original CDs with license (OEM only)
- w/computer)
- Slide projector bulbs (for the education program)
- Thesaurus – Hardcover – 1996 or newer

Please call first to see if our need has already been met. Thanks!



## Fifth Annual Ride for the River Fundraiser on May 19

On May 19, 2007 (rain date May 20) SBWA is holding its fifth annual Ride for the River fundraiser, a Motorcycle Poker Run that highlights the beauty of the South Branch Raritan River Watershed. The Ride for the River Poker Run starts at the Spruce Run Recreation Area. Riders will travel 65 miles through the watershed. The ride ends at Lebanon Memorial, where top poker hands will win prizes and all will enjoy great food. This celebration will feature the music of "Second Nature," a local band who have volunteered to play at the event. All riders are encouraged to enter the People's Choice Bike Show and compete for trophies in multiple motorcycle categories. Vendors will be offering clothing and accessories. Families are welcome at the Lebanon Memorial Park Picnic.



The SBWA is also seeking sponsors for the event. Last year's event was sponsored by over 40 businesses and individuals whose names were featured at the event. Sponsors are welcome to attend the picnic at the park as our guests. The SBWA is also soliciting donations of prizes for the participants.

More details (about registration and directions) will be published in the Spring issue of *The Current* and on our website ([www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org)). You can also contact Lynn Becker at the SBWA office 908-782-0422 ext 13 or e-mail [lynnbecker@sbwa.org](mailto:lynnbecker@sbwa.org).



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