

... published quarterly at the *Hermia Lechner House*

## Student Environmental Alliance By Tom Southard, Neshanic Project Manager

The Student Environmental Alliance (SEA) of the Hunterdon Central Regional High School presented a donation of \$1,000.00 to the SBWA on May 28, 2008. The club president, senior Sarah Lundy made the presentation during one of the final club meetings. In presenting the donation she stated that the club appreciated all the help provided by SBWA. The money was from the club treasury accumulated through numerous fund raising events.



**Hunterdon Central Students plant a buffer around their school pond.**

The SEA contacted SBWA for help in cleaning up their campus pond. Created for emergency fire suppression in the 1950's, the pond is subject to hot weather algal blooms and is an acknowledged problem by the student body. With the help of SBWA volunteer Tom Southard, the student club has been investigating the pond problems and has created a plan to turn the pond back into a healthy ecosystem.

Under the guidance of club advisor and biology teacher Bonnie Berenger, the club convinced the school management to enter into the River Friendly program. This program focuses on Water Quality, Water Quantity, Wildlife Habitat and Education & Outreach. Goals are set for each area and once the goals are achieved the school is certified River Friendly.

One of the first restoration tasks the club has completed was a riparian planting around the pond. A total of 30 shrubs and trees were planted in April. As they grow they will create habitat and also shade the pond inlet stream to help reduce water temperature.

As the club created presentation documents and analyzed the pond, they have learned about environmental stewardship. They have a better understanding of the plants and animals living in the pond ecosystem and learned how they interrelate. The club has also learned about bureaucratic systems, how these systems can ensure that sound decisions are made but also take time. The club has pledged to improve stewardship of the pond and the school grounds as a multi-year project and is already planning for next year with the newly elected SEA leadership.

For more information about the SEA project or the River Friendly program, contact Tom Southard, Neshanic Project Manager, at 908-782-0422 ext. 15.



**Hunterdon Central Students present SBWA with a \$1,000 donation.**

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SBWA is a proud member of Earth Share of New Jersey

SBWA—Recipient of the 2007 EPA Environmental Quality Award



Please check out our web site.  
[www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org)



## One Small Step for Dam Removal, One Giant Leap for the South Branch

By Bill Kibler, Executive Director

Last winter I wrote about the growing efforts to remove obsolete dams from waterways throughout the United States. Major efforts are underway to remove dams in California, Oregon, and Washington. Closer to home, dams are being removed to improve water quality and fish passage in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Right next door to our watershed, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, working with Trout Unlimited and others, just removed one obsolete dam and is preparing to remove a second.



**Notched YMCA Camp Dam in Mount Olive**

Dam removal in New Jersey has lagged behind the efforts of other states, but is finally gaining momentum. As part of a new initiative to improve fish passage in the Raritan Basin, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are considering removing or modifying five dams in the main stem of the Raritan River. NJDEP, NOAA, and USFWS will be working with other governmental and non-profit organizations to improve conditions for migratory fish such as herring and shad, which are depleted throughout much of their range including the Raritan. Like the Delaware, the Raritan River historically supported a spawning run of American Shad. Dams block the migration routes for shad, eels and other fish. Clearing dams and impoundments from the South Branch would help restore the shad runs that the Lenape Indians and early European settlers relied upon and that are a natural part of our river's ecology.

On the South Branch, we've taken our first major step towards improving water quality, protecting vital stream habitat, and ensuring the survival of trout and other aquatic life by removing dams. In September, a relic dam in Mt. Olive was notched. A 4' by 10' section of the deteriorating 12' high concrete structure was removed, allowing the South Branch to flow and setting the stage for the eventual removal of the dam, the restoration of the stream corridor, and the preservation of forests and wetlands in the area! SBWA is partnering with the owners of the dam and Trout Unlimited to remove the old YMCA dam built in the early 1900's and to restore the river. This is a historic partnership between non-profit organizations and a development company, working cooperatively with NJDEP, to significantly improve environmental conditions and protect the headwaters of our watershed.

Removing dams and restoring riparian corridors are among the best things we can do to protect water quality and improve habitat in our watershed. Dams create slow water that favors the growth of algae and plants, including invasive species, which causes dissolved oxygen levels to fall below NJDEP standards, threatening fish and other aquatic life. Dams cause water temperatures to rise in summer, creating potentially lethal conditions for trout and other sensitive aquatic communities. The silt that fills in behind dams destroys key aquatic habitat. Typically, the pooled areas above a dam contain only one-half the number of fish species found in free-flowing stretches of the river. This may seem paradoxical, but dams also can contribute significantly to downstream erosion. A stream naturally carries a certain load of sediment. If that sediment is removed when the water is held by a dam, the "sediment starved" river picks up additional sediment below the dam, causing erosion of the banks and stream bed.

Removing the old YMCA dam in Mt. Olive is an incredibly important first step towards eliminating obsolete structures from our watershed. It will help demonstrate how different groups can work together to ensure that future generations will have a clean, healthy river.



## United Way's Annual Week of Caring at SBWA

The SBWA office and grounds received a facelift thanks to three corporate volunteer groups participating in the Hunterdon and Somerset County United Ways' Annual Week of Caring event. Employees from GPSG Ortho McNeil Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, National Starch/Henkel, and Ortho Clinical Diagnostics helped us spruce things up for a day. See Special Thanks on page 4 for their specific accomplishments.



GPSG employees found a large bull frog while gardening!!



Before...  
During...and  
After!!!

### Hunterdon County Green Table Forums for 2009

January 15, 2009: Sustainable Management of Natural Lands — What Do We Do About Deer?

March 9, 2009: Hunterdon County's Farmland Preservation Plan

April 16, 2009: Field Trip — Preserved Farm Tour

May 21, 2009: Open Space Round Table — Municipal Plans and Greenway Interconnections

### SBWA 49th Annual Dinner on March 27, 2009

All members, guests, and friends of SBWA are invited to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting and Dinner on Friday, March 27, 2009. The dinner will be at the Copper Hill Country Club in Flemington, from 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. The festivities will start at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres; the dinner and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. As always, there will be an interesting guest speaker (TBA).

More information about this event will be in the next issue of *The Current* and on our web site.

Please save this date and plan to bring your friends and neighbors to an exciting evening.

### MARK YOUR 2008-2009 CALENDAR

**Community Well Testing** — Also check our web site for additional dates.

- **January 12, 2009 — Union Township**

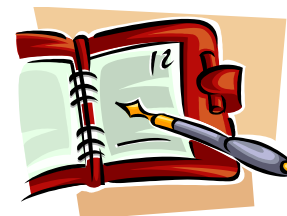
#### Hunterdon County Green Table Forums

All forums are held at the Echo Hill Lodge from 8:00 — 10:00 a.m. See article above for dates and topics.

**Annual Meeting and Dinner — March 27, 2009.** See article above.

**2nd Annual Treasures of the South Branch — June 13, 2009** at Red Mill Museum, Clinton.

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



## First Annual Casino Night Fundraiser

There was certainly no gamble if you came to have fun at SBWA's Casino Night on October 11 at the Flemington Elks. A big thanks to Tumbling Dice who provided the gaming tables and the professional "pit bosses" who coached and cajoled the happy gamblers. The 14 gaming tables were busy with novices and high rollers all night, until they cashed their winnings in for a chance at some great prizes. The silent auction was quite popular as well, with a variety of interesting items. Doctor D kept the music going and the crowd informed as the night progressed. He and Margaret Puelle did an excellent job of drawing the lucky numbers for prizes and sending everyone home with a smile on their faces.

Thanks to all of our generous friends who donated prizes for the silent auction and gaming prizes - and to our guests who bid and bought tickets for those wonderful prizes!

Thanks to the committee Co-Chairs Johannah Weinhofer and Tish Plum Doggett and their committee members: Lynn Becker, Jane Block, Elly Hatzikalfus, Milly Jagel, Virginia Johnson, Suzan Luftglass and Laraine Mocenigo.

Special thanks to the Table Sponsors: Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc.; Archer & Greiner, P. C., Attorneys at Law; Art of Framing; Bedard, Kurowicki & Co. Certified Public Accountants; Bremen Associates, LLC; Briarwood Farm; Senator Leonard Lance; Pat Stover for Brideside Adult Day Centers; Raab Coins; Samuel Stothoff Co., Inc.; Silver Team — Prudential Realty; Spring Run Antiques; The Private Advisor — Ron and Martha Stuber

Also thanks to Baker's Treat; Flemington Elks; and Parker Agency.

You all made it a great night!!



Johannah Weinhofer  
(middle), and Doctor D  
(right).



Margaret, Rose, and  
Fred Puelle.



Margaret and Rose Puelle,  
and Bill Kibler.

## Special Thanks

- **Ed and Val Burns** for loan of canopy for events.
- **Ed Kolibas and Jackie Parrinello** for fixing our Groundwater Model case and stand for our school programs.
- **Laraine Mocenigo** for designing the Annual Appeal brochure.
- **Jackie Parrinello** for binding over 600 student booklets for our fall school programs.
- **Jackie Parrinello** for donating an awesome binding machine and combs for our school programs.
- **Hunterdon and Somerset County United Ways** for providing us with three corporate volunteer groups during their annual Week of Caring.
- **GPSG Ortho McNeil Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc** - group of 8 employees spruced up our office and grounds as part of United Way's Week of Caring - created, planted, and mulched a garden area, installed lattice on the front porch, mulched 2 trails to our office, stained the lamppost, and cleaned and caulked the greenhouse.
- **National Starch/Henkel** - group of 25 employees spruced up our office and grounds as part of United Way's Week of Caring - painted meeting room floor and kitchen wall, polyurethaned stairs, created a garden area, installed a bathroom mirror and door lock, weedwacked, and painted shed interior.
- **Ortho Clinical Diagnostics** - group of 5 employees spruced up our office and grounds as part of United Way's Week of Caring - painted outside basement walkway walls and outside of main office door.
- **The Watershed Institute** for their \$10,000 grant to support our Volunteer Biological Monitoring Program.
- **Hunterdon County Utilities Authority** for their \$6,000 grant to support our Annual Stream Clean-Up.
- **Johnson & Johnson** for their \$5,000 grant.
- **Wal-Mart of Clinton** for their \$1,000 grant.
- **RBC Blue Water Project (Royal Bank of Canada)** for their grant of \$1,000 to support a rain garden demonstration project in our watershed.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS *July 1 to October 15, 2008*

Daniel Amabile  
Joseph and Anne Braunstein  
Guru and Anita Chakravarty

Peter and Susan Failla  
John Lima  
Robert Monaco

Kevin and Carla Murphy  
Richard and Jill Rosenthal

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?

We can help you convince your friends and neighbors that membership in SBWA means helping to preserve a healthy watershed for the future. Recruit five new members for 2008-2009 and get your next annual membership fee free. 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).

## Help Us Go Green!



SBWA members can receive newsletters and other correspondence electronically rather than in print through snail mail. To request this service, send an email to [lynnbecker@sbwa.org](mailto:lynnbecker@sbwa.org) with "SBWA News" as the subject. Please be sure to include your full name. Rest assured — we will not share our list or overwhelm you with spam!

**SBWA STAFF:** **Bill Kibler**, Executive Director; **Nicole Rahman**, Program Director; **Tom Southard**, Neshanic Project Manager; **Lynn Becker**, Director of Development and Member Relations; **Dee Ely**, Office Manager; **Mary Licetti**, Finance Director; **Alan Rennie**, **Kandi Kaczetow**, **Marie Comerford**, **Tom Southard**, **Harold Blackstone**, and **Henry Cattle**, Environmental Educators; **Suzanne Skrzenski**, Americorps Watershed Ambassador.

**2008 OFFICERS:** *President:* Fred Puelle; *Vice President:* James Hill; *Secretary:* Tish Plum Doggett; *Treasurer:* Ken Jagel.

**2008 TRUSTEES:** Randy Block, Dave Clapp, Karen Elbert, Oliver Elbert, Amy S. Greene, Kathy Madden, Nick Romanenko, Kay Serebrakian, Sam Stothoff, Christopher Trofimov, Johannah Weinhofer, and John Williamson.

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



## Is Bottled Water Free of Infectious Micro-organisms?



Bottled water is considered a food product and is regulated by both the United States Food and Drug Administration and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Bottled water is required to be tested on a weekly basis, and the microbiologic standards are the same as for public water supplies. However, just as with tap water, bottled waters may not be entirely free of all infectious microorganisms. The presence of microorganisms in bottled water depends on the source the water and how the water is treated. If used by the water bottling company, distillation and reverse osmosis are effective in removing infectious microorganisms. Other filtration processes can greatly reduce the number of microorganisms.

Individuals can contact bottled water companies to learn where their brand of bottled water is obtained and how it is treated. You can also obtain information on bottled water from the International Bottled Water Association (800-928-4711) or through the NSF International Bottled Water Program (800-673-6275). These organizations can provide information on most of the water bottlers in the United States and foreign countries.

### Free SBWA Water Bottle

Get your **free SBWA reusable water bottle** when you join as a first time member or upgrade your membership fee upon renewal. Thank you to Garden State Laboratories, our independent testing lab and co-sponsor of these handy blue bottles. Please pass along this offer to your friends and neighbors!



### Wish List...

- 10x10 easy pop-up canopy for use at events.
- \$250 sponsor to purchase SBWA logo vests for our education staff.
- Digital postal scale.
- Purchase of new carrying bag for SBWA display panels, or repair of current carrying bag.

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

### Other Ways to Help ...

- Donate a car or motorcycle to SBWA and get a tax deduction. Go to [www.vehiclemanagementservices.com](http://www.vehiclemanagementservices.com) or call 888-395-3955.
- Use GoodSearch.com as your search engine and designate SBWA as your cause.
- Contribute through giving programs at your workplace. See article on page 8.



## Out and About

The SBWA staff participated in the following local, regional, state, and national events throughout 2008:

- Alliance for NJ Environmental Education Conference - Princeton - Feb 2 (presentation)
- Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Earth Day Event - Deer Path Park - April 26 (display and pond life program)
- NJ Envirothon - Duke Farms - May 10 (aquatics station test grader)
- Kids Day America – Flemington – May 17 (display)
- National Water Quality Monitoring Conference - Atlantic City - May 19 (presentation)
- Readington Township Memorial Day Parade – May 26 (display)
- CAMPA Music Fest – Califon – July 19 (display)
- Hunterdon County 4-H Fair – August 20-24 (display)
- Somerset Patriots Wildlife Conservation Night – September 3 (display)
- Hunterdon Land Trust Harvest Fest – Sept 14 (display)
- Peaceful Valley Orchards Harvest Fest – October 11 (display)
- Raritan Environmental Action League Discussion – RVCC – October 22 (display and presentation)
- Hunterdon Chamber of Commerce Home and Business Expo – October 23 (display)
- Ortho Energy/Environmental Health and Safety Fair – October 15 and 24 (display)
- NJ DEP WWN Annual Volunteer Monitoring Summit - Frelinghuysen Arboretum - Nov 17 (display and presentation)
- Round Valley Trout Association Meeting - Whitehouse Station - Nov 20 (presentation)



Lynn Becker at the Somerset Patriots Wildlife Conservation Night



**Congratulations to the Hunterdon Health and Wellness Center at Clinton on their Grand Opening! Stop in and take a tour.**

### **Please Donate to SBWA Today!**

Yes, I/we want to support SBWA's efforts to protect and enhance our water resources!

My/our check is enclosed. *(Please make checks payable to "SBWA.")*

\$250\*     \$150\*     \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_    \* River Watch Club

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My company will match my gift. I have enclosed an appropriate form.

I am interested in including SBWA in my will.

I am interested in donating appreciated stock to SBWA.

Please complete this form and mail with your contribution to: SBWA, Lechner House, 41 Lilac Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822

***Thank you for your support!***

SBWA is a 501(c)3 organization.

All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



## Workplace Giving

Does your company offer a **charitable giving program** with payroll deductions to your favorite charity? If so, please have your donations sent to the SBWA! As a member of Earth Share of New Jersey, we are participating in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), NJ Employee Charitable Campaign (NJ ECC or SECC), Public Employee Charitable Campaign (PECC) as well as many private corporate campaigns. To direct your donation to the SBWA, you will need a designation code, which varies depending on the type of campaign. Please contact Lynn Becker at 908-782-0422 ext. 13 to get the appropriate code. If your employer does not currently have a workplace-giving program in place, Earth Share of NJ can help you get one started! Call Lynn Becker to learn more.

Some community-minded companies have a **volunteer grant program** that provides grants to qualified organizations on behalf of employees who have given their time as volunteers to that organization. If you are one of SBWA's many dedicated volunteers, and your company has such a program, please inquire with your human resources department about the application process for getting a grant that recognizes your efforts and benefits the great programs of SBWA.

Also check whether your company offers a **matching gift program**. If their program does not include environmental organizations as recipients, please express your concern to them and let us know. Maybe we can "enlighten" them on the importance of supporting such organizations.



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 Environment"

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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.